

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit, pursuant to Rule XI, clause 2(a) of the Rules of the House, a copy of the Rules of the Committee on Agriculture, which were adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee on January 25, 2011.

Appendix A of the Committee Rules will include excerpts from the Rules of the House relevant to the operation of the Committee. Appendix B will include relevant excerpts from the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. In the interests of minimizing printing costs, Appendices A and B are omitted from this submission.

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE 112TH CONGRESS

RULE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) **APPLICABILITY OF HOUSE RULES.**—(1) The Rules of the House shall govern the procedure of the Committee and its subcommittees, and the rules of the Committee on Agriculture so far as applicable shall be interpreted in accordance with the Rules of the House, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are non-debatable privileged motions in the Committee and its subcommittees. (See Appendix A for the applicable Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.)

(2) As provided in clause 1(a)(2) of House Rule XI, each subcommittee is part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and its rules so far as applicable. (See also Committee rules III, IV, V, VI, VII and X, *infra*.)

(b) **AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS.**—The Committee and its subcommittees, after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, may conduct such investigations and studies as they may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of their responsibilities under Rule X of the Rules of the House and in accordance with clause 2(m) of House Rule XI.

(c) **AUTHORITY TO PRINT.**—The Committee is authorized by the Rules of the House to have printed and bound testimony and other data presented at hearings held by the Committee and its subcommittees. All costs of stenographic services and transcripts in connection with any meeting or hearing of the Committee and its subcommittees shall be paid from applicable accounts of the House described in clause 1(i)(1) of House Rule X in accordance with clause 1(c) of House Rule XI. (See also paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of Committee rule VIII.)

(d) **VICE CHAIRMAN.**—The Member of the majority party on the Committee or subcommittee designated by the Chairman of the full Committee shall be the vice chairman of the Committee or subcommittee in accordance with clause 2(d) of House Rule XI.

(e) **PRESIDING MEMBER.**—If the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee is not

present at any Committee or subcommittee meeting or hearing, the vice chairman shall preside. If the Chairman and vice chairman of the Committee or subcommittee are not present at a Committee or subcommittee meeting or hearing the ranking Member of the majority party who is present shall preside in accordance with clause 2(d), House Rule XI.

(f) **PUBLICATION OF RULES.**—The Committee's rules shall be publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 30 days after the Chair is elected in each odd-numbered year as provided in clause 2(a) of House Rule XI.

(g) **JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS OF INVESTIGATION OR STUDY.**—A report of an investigation or study conducted jointly by more than one committee may be filed jointly, provided that each of the committees complies independently with all requirements for approval and filing of the report.

RULE II.—COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETINGS— REGULAR, ADDITIONAL AND SPECIAL

(a) **REGULAR MEETINGS.**—(1) Regular meetings of the Committee, in accordance with clause 2(b) of House Rule XI, shall be held on the first Wednesday of every month to transact its business unless such day is a holiday, or Congress is in recess or is adjourned, in which case the Chairman shall determine the regular meeting day of the Committee, if any, for that month. The Chairman shall provide each member of the Committee, as far in advance of the day of the regular meeting as practicable, a written agenda of such meeting. Items may be placed on the agenda by the Chairman or a majority of the Committee. If the Chairman believes that there will not be any bill, resolution or other matter considered before the full Committee and there is no other business to be transacted at a regular meeting, the meeting may be cancelled or it may be deferred until such time as, in the judgment of the Chairman, there may be matters which require the Committee's consideration. This paragraph shall not apply to meetings of any subcommittee. (See paragraph (f) of Committee rule X for provisions that apply to meetings of subcommittees.)

(b) **ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.**—(1) The Chairman may call and convene, as he or she considers necessary, which may not commence earlier than the third day on which members have notice thereof after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or after concurrence with the Ranking Minority Member, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such additional meetings pursuant to the notice from the Chairman.

(2) A hearing or meeting may begin sooner than specified in clause (1) (in which case the chair shall make the announcement specified at the earliest possible time) if the committee so determines by majority vote in the presence of the number of members required under the rules of the committee for the transaction of business.

(3) At least 24 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of a measure or matter the Chair shall cause the text of such measure or matter to be made publicly available in electronic form.

(c) **SPECIAL MEETINGS.**—If at least three members of the Committee desire that a spe-

cial meeting of the Committee be called by the Chairman, those members may file in the offices of the Committee their written request to the Chairman for such special meeting. Such request shall specify the measure or matters to be considered. Immediately upon the filing of the request, the Majority Staff Director (serving as the clerk of the Committee for such purpose) shall notify the Chairman of the filing of the request. If, within three calendar days after the filing of the request, the Chairman does not call the requested special meeting to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the members of the Committee may file in the offices of the Committee their written notice that a special meeting of the Committee will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the measures or matter to be considered at that special meeting in accordance with clause 2(c)(2) of House Rule XI. The Committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the Majority Staff Director (serving as the clerk) of the Committee shall notify all members of the Committee that such meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered, and only the measure or matter specified in that notice may be considered at that special meeting.

RULE III.—OPEN MEETINGS AND HEARINGS; BROADCASTING

(a) **OPEN MEETINGS AND HEARINGS.**—Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, and each hearing by the Committee or a subcommittee shall be open to the public unless closed in accordance with clause 2(g) of House Rule XI. (See Appendix A.)

(b) **BROADCASTING AND PHOTOGRAPHY.**—Whenever a Committee or subcommittee meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, or a hearing is open to the public, that meeting or hearing shall:

(1) To the maximum extent practicable the Committee shall provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings and shall maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

(2) Be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography in accordance with clause 4 of House Rule XI (See Appendix A). When such radio coverage is conducted in the Committee or subcommittee, written notice to that effect shall be placed on the desk of each Member. The Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, shall not limit the number of television or still cameras permitted in a hearing or meeting room to fewer than two representatives from each medium (except for legitimate space or safety considerations, in which case pool coverage shall be authorized).

(c) **CLOSED MEETINGS.—ATTENDEES.**—No person other than Members of the Committee or subcommittee and such congressional staff and departmental representatives as the Committee or subcommittee may authorize shall be present at any business or markup session that has been closed to the public as provided in clause 2(g)(1) of House Rule XI.

(d) **ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE.**—A Committee member may address the Committee

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

or a subcommittee on any bill, motion, or other matter under consideration (See Committee rule VII (e) relating to questioning a witness at a hearing). The time a member may address the Committee or subcommittee for any such purpose shall be limited to five minutes, except that this time limit may be waived by unanimous consent. A member shall also be limited in his or her remarks to the subject matter under consideration, unless the Member receives unanimous consent to extend his or her remarks beyond such subject.

(e) MEETINGS TO BEGIN PROMPTLY.—Subject to the presence of a quorum, each meeting or hearing of the Committee and its subcommittees shall begin promptly at the time so stipulated in the public announcement of the meeting or hearing.

(f) PROHIBITION ON PROXY VOTING.—No vote by any Member of the Committee or subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter may be cast by proxy.

(g) LOCATION OF PERSONS AT MEETINGS.—No person other than the Committee or subcommittee Members and Committee or subcommittee staff may be seated in the rostrum area during a meeting of the Committee or subcommittee unless by unanimous consent of Committee or subcommittee.

(h) CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS AND MOTIONS.—A Member, upon request, shall be recognized by the Chairman to address the Committee or subcommittee at a meeting for a period limited to five minutes on behalf of an amendment or motion offered by the Member or another Member, or upon any other matter under consideration, unless the Member receives unanimous consent to extend the time limit. Every amendment or motion made in Committee or subcommittee shall, upon the demand of any Member present, be reduced to writing, and a copy thereof shall be made available to all Members present. Such amendment or motion shall not be pending before the Committee or subcommittee or voted on until the requirements of this paragraph have been met.

(i) DEMANDING RECORD VOTE.—

(1) A record vote of the Committee or subcommittee on a question or action shall be ordered on a demand by one-fifth of the Members present.

(2) The Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment. If the Chairman postpones further proceedings:

(A) the Chairman may resume such postponed proceedings, after giving Members adequate notice, at a time chosen in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member; and

(B) notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, the underlying proposition on which proceedings were postponed shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(j) SUBMISSION OF MOTIONS OR AMENDMENTS IN ADVANCE OF BUSINESS MEETINGS.—The Committee and subcommittee-Chairman may request and Committee and subcommittee Members should, insofar as practicable, cooperate in providing copies of proposed amendments or motions to the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or the subcommittee twenty-four hours before a Committee or subcommittee business meeting.

(k) POINTS OF ORDER.—No point of order against the hearing or meeting procedures of the Committee or subcommittee shall be entertained unless it is made in a timely fashion.

(l) LIMITATION ON COMMITTEE SITTINGS.—The Committee or subcommittees may not

sit during a joint session of the House and Senate or during a recess when a joint meeting of the House and Senate is in progress.

(m) PROHIBITION OF WIRELESS TELEPHONES.—Use of wireless phones during a committee or subcommittee hearing or meeting is prohibited.

RULE IV.—QUORUMS

(a) WORKING QUORUM.—One-third of the members of the Committee or a subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking any action, other than as noted in paragraphs (b) and (c).

(b) MAJORITY QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for:

(1) the reporting of a bill, resolution or other measure (See clause 2(h)(1) of House Rules XI, and Committee rule VIII);

(2) the closing of a meeting or hearing to the public pursuant to clauses 2(g), 2(k)(5) and 2(k)(7) of the Rule XI of the Rules of the House;

(3) the authorizing of a subpoena as provided in clause 2(m)(3), of House Rule XI (See also Committee rule VI.); and

(4) as where required by a rule of the House.

(c) QUORUM FOR TAKING TESTIMONY.—Two members of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

RULE V.—RECORDS

(a) MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.—The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee and subcommittee action which shall include—

(1) in the case of any meeting or hearing transcripts, a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved; and

(2) written minutes shall include a record of all Committee and subcommittee action and a record of all votes on any question and a tally on all record votes. The result of each such record vote shall be made available by the Committee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee and by telephone request and also made publicly available in electronic form within 48 hours of such record vote. Not later than 24 hours after adoption of an amendment to a measure or matter, the chair of the Committee shall cause the text of such amendment adopted thereto to be made publicly available in electronic form. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order or other proposition and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members present but not voting.

(b) ACCESS TO AND CORRECTION OF RECORDS.—Any public witness, or person authorized by such witness, during Committee office hours in the Committee offices and within two weeks of the close of hearings, may obtain a transcript copy of that public witness's testimony and make such technical, grammatical and typographical corrections as authorized by the person making the remarks involved as will not alter the nature of testimony given. There shall be prompt return of such corrected copy of the transcript to the Committee. Members of the Committee or subcommittee shall receive copies of transcripts for their prompt review and correction and prompt return to the Committee. The Committee or subcommittee may order the printing of a hearing record without the corrections of any Member or witness if it determines that such

Member or witness has been afforded a reasonable time in which to make such corrections and further delay would seriously impede the consideration of the legislative action that is subject of the hearing. The record of a hearing shall be closed ten calendar days after the last oral testimony, unless the Committee or subcommittee determines otherwise. Any person requesting to file a statement for the record of a hearing must so request before the hearing concludes and must file the statement before the record is closed unless the Committee or subcommittee determines otherwise. The Committee or subcommittee may reject any statement in light of its length or its tendency to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person.

(c) PROPERTY OF THE HOUSE.—All Committee and subcommittee hearings, records, data, charts, and files shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the Members serving as Chairman and such records shall be the property of the House and all Members of the House shall have access thereto. The Majority Staff Director shall promptly notify the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of any request for access to such records.

(d) AVAILABILITY OF ARCHIVED RECORDS.—The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with House Rule VII. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee of the need for a Committee order pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of such House Rule, to withhold a record otherwise available.

(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS.—A stenographic record of a business meeting of the Committee or subcommittee may be kept and thereafter may be published if the Chairman of the Committee, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, determines there is need for such a record. The proceedings of the Committee or subcommittee in a closed meeting, evidence or testimony in such meeting, shall not be divulged unless otherwise determined by a majority of the Committee or subcommittee.

(f) ELECTRONIC AVAILABILITY OF COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS.—To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form.

RULE VI.—POWER TO SIT AND ACT; SUBPOENA POWER

(a) AUTHORITY TO SIT AND ACT.—For the purpose of carrying out any of its function and duties under House Rules X and XI, the Committee and each of its subcommittees is authorized (subject to paragraph (b)(1) of this rule)—

(1) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned and to hold such hearings, and

(2) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers and documents, as it deems necessary. The Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, or any member designated by the Chairman, may administer oaths to any witness.

(b) ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENAS.—(1) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee or subcommittee under paragraph (a)(2) in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present, as provided in clause 2(m)(3)(A) of House Rule XI. Such authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chairman of the Committee or

by any member designated by the Committee. As soon as practicable after a subpoena is issued under this rule, the Chairman shall notify all members of the Committee of such action.

(2) Notice of a meeting to consider a motion to authorize and issue a subpoena should be given to all Members of the Committee by 5 p.m. of the day preceding such meeting.

(3) Compliance with any subpoena issued by the Committee or subcommittee under paragraph (a)(2) may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House.

(4) A subpoena duces tecum may specify terms of return other than at a meeting or hearing of the committee or subcommittee authorizing the subpoena.

(c) EXPENSES OF SUBPOENAED WITNESSES.—Each witness who has been subpoenaed, upon the completion of his or her testimony before the Committee or any subcommittee, may report to the offices of the Committee, and there sign appropriate vouchers for travel allowances and attendance fees to which he or she is entitled. If hearings are held in cities other than Washington D.C., the subpoenaed witness may contact the Majority Staff Director of the Committee, or his or her representative, before leaving the hearing room.

RULE VII.—HEARING PROCEDURES

(a) POWER TO HEAR.—For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under House Rule X and XI, the Committee and its subcommittees are authorized to sit and hold hearings at any time or place within the United States whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned. (See paragraph (a) of Committee rule VI and paragraph (f) of Committee rule X for provisions relating to subcommittee hearings and meetings.)

(b) ANNOUNCEMENT.—The Chairman of the Committee shall after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, make a public announcement of the date, place and subject matter of any Committee hearing at least one week before the commencement of the hearing. The Chairman of a subcommittee shall schedule a hearing only after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the subcommittee, and the Chairmen of the other subcommittees after such consultation with the Committee Chairman, and shall request the Majority Staff Director to make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of such hearing at least one week before the hearing. If the Chairman of the Committee or the subcommittee, with concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or subcommittee, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee or subcommittee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate, shall request the Majority Staff Director to make such public announcement at the earliest possible date. The clerk of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record, and shall promptly enter the appropriate information into the Committee scheduling service of the House Information Systems as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(c) SCHEDULING OF WITNESSES.—Except as otherwise provided in this rule, the scheduling of witnesses and determination of the time allowed for the presentation of testimony at hearings shall be at the discretion of the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, unless a majority of the Com-

mittee or subcommittee determines otherwise.

(d) WRITTEN STATEMENT; ORAL TESTIMONY.—(1) Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or a subcommittee, shall insofar as practicable file with the Majority Staff Director of the Committee, at least two working days before day of his or her appearance, a written statement of proposed testimony. Witnesses shall provide sufficient copies of their statement for distribution to Committee or subcommittee Members, staff, and the news media. Insofar as practicable, the Committee or subcommittee staff shall distribute such written statements to all Members of the Committee or subcommittee as soon as they are received as well as any official reports from departments and agencies on such subject matter. All witnesses may be limited in their oral presentations to brief summaries of their statements within the time allotted to them, at the discretion of the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, in light of the nature of the testimony and the length of time available.

(2) As noted in paragraph (a) of Committee rule VI, the Chairman of the Committee or one of its subcommittees, or any Member designated by the Chairman, may administer an oath to any witness.

(3) To the greatest extent practicable, each witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include with the written statement of proposed testimony a curriculum vitae and disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two preceding fiscal years. Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy of witnesses, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

(e) QUESTIONING OF WITNESSES.—Committee or subcommittee Members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee for that purpose. Each Member so recognized shall be limited to questioning a witness for five minutes until such time as each Member of the Committee or subcommittee who so desires has had an opportunity to question the witness for five minutes; and thereafter the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee may limit the time of a further round of questioning after giving due consideration to the importance of the subject matter and the length of time available. All questions put to witnesses shall be germane to the measure or matter under consideration. Unless a majority of the Committee or subcommittee determines otherwise, no committee or subcommittee staff shall interrogate witnesses.

(f) EXTENDED QUESTIONING FOR DESIGNATED MEMBERS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (e), the Chairman and Ranking Minority member may designate an equal number of Members from each party to question a witness for a period not longer than 60 minutes.

(g) WITNESSES FOR THE MINORITY.—When any hearing is conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee upon any measure or matter, the minority party members on the Committee or subcommittee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman by a majority of those minority members before the completion of such hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon as provided in clause 2(j)(1) of House Rule XI.

(h) SUMMARY OF SUBJECT MATTER.—Upon announcement of a hearing, to the extent practicable, the Committee shall make available immediately to all members of the Committee a concise summary of the subject

matter (including legislative reports and other material) under consideration. In addition, upon announcement of a hearing and subsequently as they are received, the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee shall, to the extent practicable, make available to the members of the Committee any official reports from departments and agencies on such matter. (See Committee rule X(f).)

(i) OPEN HEARINGS.—Each hearing conducted by the Committee or subcommittee shall be open to the public, including radio, television and still photography coverage, except as provided in clause 4 of House Rule XI (see also Committee rule III (b)). In any event, no Member of the House may be excluded from nonparticipatory attendance at any hearing unless the House by majority vote shall authorize the Committee or subcommittee, for purposes of a particular series of hearings on a particular bill or resolution or on a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearings to Members by means of the above procedure.

(j) HEARINGS AND REPORTS.—(1)(i) The Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee at a hearing shall announce in an opening statement the subject of the investigation. A copy of the Committee rules (and the applicable provisions of clause 2 of House Rule XI, regarding hearing procedures, an excerpt of which appears in Appendix A thereto) shall be made available to each witness upon request. Witnesses at hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights. The Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional ethics on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; but only the full Committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(ii) Whenever it is asserted by a member of the committee that the evidence or testimony at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, or it is asserted by a witness that the evidence or testimony that the witness would give at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate the witness, such testimony or evidence shall be presented in executive session, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (i) of this rule, if by a majority of those present, there being in attendance the requisite number required under the rules of the Committee to be present for the purpose of taking testimony, the Committee or subcommittee determines that such evidence or testimony may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person. The Committee or subcommittee shall afford a person an opportunity voluntarily to appear as a witness; and the Committee or subcommittee shall receive and shall dispose of requests from such person to subpoena additional witnesses.

(iii) No evidence or testimony taken in executive session may be released or used in public sessions without the consent of the Committee or subcommittee. In the discretion of the Committee or subcommittee, witnesses may submit brief and pertinent statements in writing for inclusion in the record. The Committee or subcommittee is the sole judge of the pertinency of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearings. A witness may obtain a transcript copy of his or her testimony given at a public session or, if given at an executive session, when authorized by the Committee or subcommittee. (See paragraph (c) of Committee rule V.)

(2) A proposed investigative or oversight report shall be considered as read if it has been available to the members of the Committee for at least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when

the House is in session on such day) in advance of their consideration.

RULE VIII.—THE REPORTING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

(a) **FILING OF REPORTS.**—The Chairman shall report or cause to be reported promptly to the House any bill, resolution, or other measure approved by the Committee and shall take or cause to be taken all necessary steps to bring such bill, resolution, or other measure to a vote. No bill, resolution, or measure shall be reported from the Committee unless a majority of Committee is actually present. A Committee report on any bill, resolution, or other measure approved by the Committee shall be filed within seven calendar days (not counting days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the Majority Staff Director of the Committee a written request, signed by a majority of the Committee, for the reporting of that bill or resolution. The Majority Staff Director of the Committee shall notify the Chairman immediately when such a request is filed.

(b) **CONTENT OF REPORTS.**—Each Committee report on any bill or resolution approved by the Committee shall include as separately identified sections:

(1) a statement of the intent or purpose of the bill or resolution;

(2) a statement describing the need for such bill or resolution;

(3) a statement of Committee and subcommittee consideration of the measure including a summary of amendments and motions offered and the actions taken thereon;

(4) the results of the each record vote on any amendment in the Committee and subcommittee and on the motion to report the measure or matter, including the names of those Members and the total voting for and the names of those Members and the total voting against such amendment or motion (See clause 3(b) of House rule XIII);

(5) the oversight findings and recommendations of the Committee with respect to the subject matter of the bill or resolution as required pursuant to clause 3(c)(1) of House Rule XIII and clause 2(b)(1) of House Rule X;

(6) the detailed statement described in section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 if the bill or resolution provides new budget authority (other than continuing appropriations), new spending authority described in section 401(c)(2) of such Act, new credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures, except that the estimates with respect to new budget authority shall include, when practicable, a comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant program (or programs) to the appropriate levels under current law;

(7) the estimate of costs and comparison of such estimates, if any, prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office in connection with such bill or resolution pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 if submitted in timely fashion to the Committee;

(8) a statement of general performance goals and objectives, including outcome-related goals and objectives, for which the measure authorizes funding;

(9) a statement citing the specific powers granted to the Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution;

(10) an estimate by the committee of the costs that would be incurred in carrying out such bill or joint resolution in the fiscal year in which it is reported and for its authorized duration or for each of the five fiscal years following the fiscal year of reporting, whichever period is less (see Rule XIII, clause 3(d)(2), (3) and (h)(2), (3)), together with—

(i) a comparison of these estimates with those made and submitted to the Committee

by any Government agency when practicable, and (ii) a comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant program (or programs) with appropriate levels under current law (the provisions of this clause do not apply if a cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 has been timely submitted prior to the filing of the report and included in the report);

(11) a list of congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, and limited tariff benefits in the bill or in the report (and the name of any Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner who submitted a request to the committee for each respective item included in such list) or a statement that the proposition contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits;

(12) the changes in existing law (if any) shown in accordance with clause 3 of House Rule XIII;

(13) the determination required pursuant to section 5(b) of Public Law 92-463, if the legislation reported establishes or authorizes the establishment of an advisory committee; and

(14) the information on Federal and intergovernmental mandates required by section 423(c) and (d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as added by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-4).

(15) a statement regarding the applicability of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act, Public Law 104-1.

(c) **SUPPLEMENTAL, MINORITY, OR ADDITIONAL VIEWS.**—If, at the time of approval of any measure or matter by the Committee, any Member of the Committee gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views, that Member shall be entitled to not less than two subsequent calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such date) in which to file such views, in writing and signed by that Member, with the Majority Staff Director of the Committee. When time guaranteed by this paragraph has expired (or if sooner, when all separate views have been received), the Committee may arrange to file its report with the Clerk of the House not later than one hour after the expiration of such time. All such views (in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 2(1) and House Rule XIII, clause 3(a)(1)), as filed by one or more Members of the Committee, shall be included within and made a part of the report filed by the Committee with respect to that bill or resolution.

(d) **PRINTING OF REPORTS.**—The report of the Committee on the measure or matter noted in paragraph (a) above shall be printed in a single volume, which shall:

(1) include all supplemental, minority or additional views that have been submitted by the time of the filing of the report; and

(2) bear on its cover a recital that any such supplemental, minority, or additional views (and any material submitted under House Rule XII, clause 3(a)(1)) are included as part of the report.

(e) **IMMEDIATE PRINTING; SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS.**—Nothing in this rule shall preclude (1) the immediate filing or printing of a Committee report unless timely request for the opportunity to file supplemental, minority, or additional views has been made as provided by paragraph (c), or (2) the filing by the Committee of any supplemental report on any bill or resolution that may be required for the correction of any technical error in a previous report made by the Committee on that bill or resolution.

(f) **AVAILABILITY OF PRINTED HEARING RECORDS.**—If hearings have been held on any

reported bill or resolution, the Committee shall make every reasonable effort to have the record of such hearings printed and available for distribution to the Members of the House prior to the consideration of such bill or resolution by the House. Each printed hearing of the Committee or any of its subcommittees shall include a record of the attendance of the Members.

(g) **COMMITTEE PRINTS.**—All Committee or subcommittee prints or other Committee or subcommittee documents, other than reports or prints of bills, that are prepared for public distribution shall be approved by the Chairman of the Committee or the Committee prior to public distribution.

(h) **POST ADJOURNMENT FILING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS.**—(1) After an adjournment of the last regular session of a Congress sine die, an investigative or oversight report approved by the Committee may be filed with the Clerk at any time, provided that if a member gives notice at the time of approval of intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views, that member shall be entitled to not less than seven calendar days in which to submit such views for inclusion with the report.

(2) After an adjournment of the last regular session of a Congress sine die, the Chairman of the Committee may file at any time with the Clerk the Committee's activity report for that Congress pursuant to clause 1(d)(1) of rule XI of the Rules of the House without the approval of the Committee, provided that a copy of the report has been available to each member of the Committee for at least seven calendar days and the report includes any supplemental, minority, or additional views submitted by a member of the Committee.

(i) The Chairman is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

RULE IX.—OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

(a) **OVERSIGHT PLAN.**—Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, the Chairman shall convene the Committee in a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum present to adopt its oversight plans for that Congress. Such plans shall be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Government Reform and to the Committee on House Administration. In developing such plans the Committee shall, to the maximum extent feasible—

(1) consult with other committees of the House that have jurisdiction over the same or related laws, programs, or agencies within its jurisdiction, with the objective of ensuring that such laws, programs, or agencies are reviewed in the same Congress and that there is a maximum of coordination between such committees in the conduct of such reviews; and such plans shall include an explanation of what steps have been and will be taken to ensure such coordination and cooperation;

(2) review specific problems with federal rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions that are ambiguous, arbitrary, or nonsensical, or that impose severe financial burdens on individuals;

(3) give priority consideration to including in its plans the review of those laws, programs, or agencies operating under permanent budget authority or permanent statutory authority;

(4) have a view toward ensuring that all significant laws, programs, or agencies within its jurisdiction are subject to review at least once every ten years; and

(5) include proposals to cut or eliminate programs, including mandatory spending programs, that are inefficient, duplicative, outdated, or more appropriately administered by State or local governments.

The Committee and its appropriate subcommittees shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting subjects within its jurisdiction as provided in clause 2(d) of House Rule X. The Committee shall include in the report filed pursuant to clause 1(d) of House Rule XI a summary of the oversight plans submitted by the Committee under clause 2(d) of House Rule X, a summary of actions taken and recommendations made with respect to each such plan, and a summary of any additional oversight activities undertaken by the Committee and any recommendations made or actions taken thereon.

(b) **ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS.**—The Committee shall, in its consideration of all bills and joint resolutions of a public character within its jurisdiction, ensure that appropriations for continuing programs and activities of the Federal government and the District of Columbia government will be made annually to the maximum extent feasible and consistent with the nature, requirements, and objectives of the programs and activities involved. The Committee shall review, from time to time, each continuing program within its jurisdiction for which appropriations are not made annually in order to ascertain whether such program could be modified so that appropriations therefor would be made annually.

(c) **BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE: VIEWS AND ESTIMATES.** (See Appendix B)—Not later than six weeks after the President submits his budget under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, or at such time as the Committee on the Budget may request, the Committee shall, submit to the Committee on the Budget (1) its views and estimates with respect to all matters to be set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget for the ensuing fiscal year (under section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974—see Appendix B) that are within its jurisdiction or functions; and (2) an estimate of the total amounts of new budget authority, and budget outlays resulting therefrom, to be provided or authorized in all bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction that it intends to be effective during that fiscal year.

(d) **BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE: RECOMMENDED CHANGES.**—Whenever the Committee is directed in a concurrent resolution on the budget to determine and recommend changes in laws, bills, or resolutions under the reconciliation process, it shall promptly make such determination and recommendations, and report a reconciliation bill or resolution (or both) to the House or submit such recommendations to the Committee on the Budget, in accordance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (See Appendix B).

(e) **CONFERENCE COMMITTEES.**—Whenever in the legislative process it becomes necessary to appoint conferees, the Chairman shall, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, determine the number of conferees the Chairman deems most suitable and then recommend to the Speaker as conferees, in keeping with the number to be appointed by the Speaker as provided in House Rule I, clause 11, the names of those Members of the Committee of not less than a majority who generally supported the House position and who were primarily responsible for the legislation. The Chairman shall, to the fullest extent feasible, include those Members of the Committee who were the principal proponents of the major provisions of the bill as it passed the House and such other Committee Members of the majority party as the Chairman may designate in consultation with the Members of the majority party. Such recommendations shall provide a ratio of majority party Members to minority party Members no less favorable to the ma-

jority party than the ratio of majority party Members to minority party Members on the Committee. In making recommendations of Minority Party Members as conferees, the Chairman shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

(f)(1) The Committee, or a subcommittee, shall hold at least one hearing during each 120-day period following the establishment of the committee on the topic of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which the committee may authorize.

(2) A hearing described in subparagraph (1) shall include a focus on the most egregious instances of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement as documented by any report the committee has received from a Federal Office of the Inspector General or the Comptroller General of the United States.

(g) The Committee or a subcommittee, shall hold at least one hearing in any session in which the committee has received disclaimers of agency financial statements from auditors of any Federal agency that the committee may authorize to hear testimony on such disclaimers from representatives of any such agency.

(h) The Committee or a subcommittee, shall hold at least one hearing on issues raised by reports issued by the Comptroller General of the United States indicating that Federal programs or operations that the committee may authorize are at 'high risk for waste, fraud, and mismanagement, known as the 'high-risk-list' or the 'high-risk series'.

(i)(1) Not later than the 30th day after June 1 and December 1, the Committee shall submit to the House a semiannual report on the activities of the committee. After adjournment sine die of a regular session of Congress, or after December 15, whichever occurs first, the Chair may file the second or fourth semiannual report, a copy of which shall be made available to each member of the committee for at least seven calendar days, with the Clerk at any time.

(2) Such report shall include separate sections summarizing the legislative and oversight activities of the Committee during that Congress.

(3) The oversight section of such report shall include a summary of the oversight plans submitted by the Committee pursuant to clause 2(d) of House Rule X, a summary of the actions taken and recommendations made with respect to each such plan, and a summary of any additional oversight activities undertaken by the Committee, and any recommendations made or actions taken with respect thereto.

RULE X.—SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) **NUMBER AND COMPOSITION.**—There shall be such subcommittees as specified in paragraph (c) of this rule. Each of such subcommittees shall be composed of the number of members set forth in paragraph (c) of this rule, including *ex officio* members.¹ The Chairman may create additional subcommittees of an *ad hoc* nature as the Chairman determines to be appropriate subject to any limitations provided for in the House Rules.

(b) **RATIOS.**—On each subcommittee, there shall be a ratio of majority party members to minority party members which shall be consistent with the ratio on the full Committee. In calculating the ratio of majority party members to minority party members, there shall be included the *ex officio* members of the subcommittees and ratios below reflect that fact.

(c) **JURISDICTION.**—Each subcommittee shall have the following general jurisdiction and number of members:

Conservation, Energy, and Forestry (22 members, 12 majority and 10 minority).—

Soil, water, and resource conservation, small watershed program, energy and biobased energy production, rural electrification, forestry in general and forest reserves other than those created from the public domain.

Department Operations, Oversight, and Credit (10 members, 6 majority and 4 minority).—Agency oversight, review and analysis, special investigations, and agricultural credit.

General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, (26 members, 15 majority and 11 minority).—Program and markets related to cotton, cottonseed, wheat, feed grains, soybeans, oilseeds, rice, dry beans, peas, lentils, the Commodity Credit Corporation, risk management, including crop insurance, commodity exchanges, and specialty crops.

Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry, Ratios (20 members, 11 majority and 9 minority).—Livestock, dairy, poultry, meat, seafood and seafood products, inspection, marketing, and promotion of such commodities, aquaculture, animal welfare, and grazing.

Nutrition and Horticulture, Ratios (10 members, 6 majority and 4 minority).—Food stamps, nutrition and consumer programs, fruits and vegetables, honey and bees, marketing and promotion orders, plant pesticides, quarantine, adulteration of seeds and insect pests, and organic agriculture.

Rural Development, Research, Biotechnology, and Foreign Agriculture, Ratios (14 members, 8 majority and 6 minority).—Rural Development, farm security and family farming matters, research, education and extension, biotechnology, foreign agriculture assistance, and trade promotion programs, generally.

(d) **REFERRAL OF LEGISLATION.**—

(1)(a) **IN GENERAL.**—All bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to the Committee shall be referred to all subcommittees of appropriate jurisdiction within 2 weeks after being referred to the Committee. After consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chairman may determine that the Committee will consider certain bills, resolutions, or other matters.

(b) **TRADE MATTERS.**—Unless action is otherwise taken under subparagraph (3), bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to the Committee relating to foreign agriculture, foreign food or commodity assistance, and foreign trade and marketing issues will be considered by the Committee.

(2) The Chairman, by a majority vote of the Committee, may discharge a subcommittee from further consideration of any bill, resolution, or other matter referred to the subcommittee and have such bill, resolution or other matter considered by the Committee. The Committee having referred a bill, resolution, or other matter to a subcommittee in accordance with this rule may discharge such subcommittee from further consideration thereof at any time by a vote of the majority members of the Committee for the Committee's direct consideration or for reference to another subcommittee.

(3) Unless the Committee, a quorum being present, decides otherwise by a majority vote, the Chairman may refer bills, resolutions, legislation or other matters not specifically within the jurisdiction of a subcommittee, or that is within the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee, jointly or exclusively as the Chairman deems appropriate, including concurrently to the subcommittees with jurisdiction, sequentially to the subcommittees with jurisdiction (subject to any time limits deemed appropriate), divided by subject matter among the subcommittees with jurisdiction, or to an *ad hoc* subcommittee appointed by the Chairman for the purpose of considering the matter and reporting to the Committee thereon, or make such other provisions deemed appropriate.

(e) PARTICIPATION AND SERVICE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON SUBCOMMITTEES.—(1) The Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member shall serve as *ex officio* members of all subcommittees and shall have the right to vote on all matters before the subcommittees. The Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member may not be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

(2) Any member of the Committee who is not a member of the subcommittee may have the privilege of sitting and nonparticipatory attendance at subcommittee hearings or meetings in accordance with clause 2(g)(2) of House Rule XI. Such member may not:

- (i) vote on any matter;
- (ii) be counted for the purpose of a establishing a quorum;
- (iii) participate in questioning a witness under the five minute rule, unless permitted to do so by the subcommittee Chairman in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member or a majority of the subcommittee, a quorum being present;
- (iv) raise points of order; or
- (v) offer amendments or motions.

(f) SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MEETINGS.—(1) Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and make recommendations to the Committee on all matters referred to it or under its jurisdiction after consultation by the subcommittee Chairmen with the Committee Chairman. (See Committee rule VII.)

(2) After consultation with the Committee Chairman, subcommittee Chairmen shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their subcommittees and shall request the Majority Staff Director to make any announcement relating thereto. (See Committee rule VII(b).) In setting the dates, the Committee Chairman and subcommittee Chairman shall consult with other subcommittee Chairmen and relevant Committee and Subcommittee Ranking Minority Members in an effort to avoid simultaneously scheduling Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings to the extent practicable.

(3) Notice of all subcommittee meetings shall be provided to the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee by the Majority Staff Director.

(4) Subcommittees may hold meetings or hearings outside of the House if the Chairman of the Committee and other subcommittee Chairmen and the Ranking Minority Member of the subcommittee is consulted in advance to ensure that there is no scheduling problem. However, the majority of the Committee may authorize such meeting or hearing.

(5) The provisions regarding notice and the agenda of Committee meetings under Committee rule II(a) and special or additional meetings under Committee rule II(b) shall apply to subcommittee meetings.

(6) If a vacancy occurs in a subcommittee chairmanship, the Chairman may set the dates for hearings and meetings of the subcommittee during the period of vacancy. The Chairman may also appoint an acting subcommittee Chairman until the vacancy is filled.

(g) SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION.—(1) Any bill, resolution, recommendation, or other matter forwarded to the Committee by a subcommittee shall be promptly forwarded by the subcommittee Chairman or any subcommittee member authorized to do so by the subcommittee. (2) Upon receipt of such recommendation, the Majority Staff Director of the Committee shall promptly advise all members of the Committee of the subcommittee action.

(3) The Committee shall not consider any matters recommended by subcommittees until two calendar days have elapsed from the date of action, unless the Chairman or a

majority of the Committee determines otherwise.

(h) SUBCOMMITTEE INVESTIGATIONS.—No investigation shall be initiated by a subcommittee without the prior consultation with the Chairman of the Committee or a majority of the Committee.

END NOTE

¹The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee serve as *ex officio* Members of the Subcommittees. (See paragraph (e) of this Rule).

RULE XI.—COMMITTEE BUDGET, STAFF, AND TRAVEL

(a) COMMITTEE BUDGET.—The Chairman, in consultation with the majority members of the Committee, and the minority members of the Committee, shall prepare a preliminary budget for each session of the Congress. Such budget shall include necessary amounts for staff personnel, travel, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee and subcommittees. After consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chairman shall include an amount budgeted to minority members for staff under their direction and supervision. Thereafter, the Chairman shall combine such proposals into a consolidated Committee budget, and shall take whatever action is necessary to have such budget duly authorized by the House.

(b) COMMITTEE STAFF.—(1) The Chairman shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the professional and clerical employees of the Committee not assigned to the minority. The professional and clerical staff of the Committee not assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chairman, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate. (See House Rule X, clause 9).

(2) The Ranking Minority member of the Committee shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority within the budget approved for such purposes. The professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee who may delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate.

(3) From the funds made available for the appointment of Committee staff pursuant to any primary or additional expense resolution, the Chairman shall ensure that each subcommittee is adequately funded and staffed to discharge its responsibilities and that the minority party is fairly treated in the appointment of such staff (See House Rule X, clause 6(d)).

(c) COMMITTEE TRAVEL.—(1) Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolution as may have been approved, the provisions of this rule shall govern official travel of Committee members and Committee staff regarding domestic and foreign travel (See House rule XI, clause 2(n) and House Rule X, clause 8 (reprinted in Appendix A)). Official travel for any member or any Committee staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chairman. Official travel may be authorized by the Chairman for any Committee Member and any Committee staff member in connection with the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee and its subcommittees and meetings, conferences, facility inspections, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter relevant to the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the Chairman in writing the following:

- (i) The purpose of the official travel;
- (ii) The dates during which the official travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the official travel is being made;
- (iii) The location of the event for which the official travel is to be made; and
- (iv) The names of members and Committee staff seeking authorization.

(2) In the case of official travel of members and staff of a subcommittee to hearings, meetings, conferences, facility inspections and investigations involving activities or subject matter under the jurisdiction of such subcommittee to be paid for out of funds allocated to the Committee, prior authorization must be obtained from the subcommittee Chairman and the full Committee Chairman. Such prior authorization shall be given by the Chairman only upon the representation by the applicable subcommittee Chairman in writing setting forth those items enumerated in clause (1).

(3) Within 60 days of the conclusion of any official travel authorized under this rule, there shall be submitted to the Committee Chairman a written report covering the information gained as a result of the hearing, meeting, conference, facility inspection or investigation attended pursuant to such official travel.

(4) Local currencies owned by the United States shall be made available to the Committee and its employees engaged in carrying out their official duties outside the United States, its territories or possessions. No appropriated funds shall be expended for the purpose of defraying expenses of Members of the Committee or is employees in any country where local currencies are available for this purpose; and the following conditions shall apply with respect to their use of such currencies:

- (i) No Member or employee of the Committee shall receive or expend local currencies for subsistence in any country at a rate in excess of the maximum per diem rate set forth in applicable Federal law; and
- (ii) Each Member or employee of the Committee shall make an itemized report to the Chairman within 60 days following the completion of travel showing the dates each country was visited, the amount of per diem furnished, the cost of transportation furnished, and any funds expended for any other official purpose, and shall summarize in these categories the total foreign currencies and appropriated funds expended. All such individual reports shall be filed by the Chairman with the Committee on House Administration and shall be open to public inspection.

RULE XII.—AMENDMENT OF RULES

These rules may be amended by a majority vote of the Committee. A proposed change in these rules shall not be considered by the Committee as provided in clause 2 of House Rule XI, unless written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each Committee member two legislative days in advance of the date on which the matter is to be considered. Any such change in the rules of the Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record within 30 calendar days after its approval.

REPEALING THE JOB-KILLING HEALTH CARE LAW ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, which would repeal the health care law.

Some ask why we simply can't just change the law that is on the books—amend it to make it a bit better. Mr. Speaker, we cannot build upon something that is fundamentally flawed. So before we move forward with a replacement, we must get rid of the law in front of us. Repeal will free businesses and individuals from costly, onerous, and unconstitutional mandates. Once we do that, we can move toward replacing it with real solutions that help Americans get affordable healthcare and help businesses avoid excessive costs and penalties associated with this law.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can achieve these goals by doing the following things. First, we need to create a mechanism whereby small businesses and associations can pool together to get health insurance through their respective organizations. I believe that these associations and individuals should be allowed to purchase insurance plans across state lines, creating choice and competition which will ultimately drive down the cost of health insurance for everyone. Furthermore, tort reform must be addressed in a way that reduces medical malpractice lawsuits, which has had a profound effect on the ability of doctors to practice and has made the profession less appealing to individuals who truly want to serve those in need.

This healthcare bill is a recipe for further fiscal insanity. It expands already bloated entitlement programs and will add 32 million more people to these programs by 2019 at a cost of \$938 billion. States in particular will be severely burdened by the new law. They will now be required to increase Medicaid eligibility to cover individuals below 138 percent of the poverty level, which will eventually lead many already cash-strapped states down the road to bankruptcy. These expansions are simply unsustainable, especially during our current economic crisis. What we need is reform, not massive expansion of entitlement programs.

This is just one of the problems with this bill, Mr. Speaker. Not only will it expand entitlements, it will raise premiums for millions of families and it includes an unconstitutional mandate requiring individuals to purchase healthcare. At a time when families are already struggling to make ends meet, this is not the right choice for our country.

Finally, this bill was drafted behind closed doors, and without any transparency. The American people, let alone the Republicans in Congress, had little input into the final product that became law. We deserve better. The American people deserve better from their leaders, elected to represent their interests.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that we must work toward a system whereby Americans can get access to the doctors that best suit their needs at an affordable price. Repealing this healthcare law is the first step.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID N. WALSH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sergeant David N. Walsh, who is retiring after 31 years of law enforcement service—21 years of service to the city of Fair-

field, nearly eight years with the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department, and more than two years with Fresno County Sheriff's Department. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

David began his law enforcement career as a Deputy Sheriff with Fresno County and then Contra Costa County. He was then hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on November 27, 1989. As an officer, he worked in various capacities including Patrol, Investigations, Firearms Instruction, and Field Training. He joined the Special Activity Felony Enforcement, SAFE, Team in 1992 and was promoted to Police Corporal on April 19, 2002.

On July 9, 2004, David was promoted to Police Sergeant and ultimately supervised a number of different teams including Patrol, Violent Crime Suppression, Traffic and Investigations. He was an extremely capable and team orientated leader. Over the course of his career, David has received numerous commendations from the community and his co-workers.

David was a valued employee and leader of the Fairfield Police Department. His commitment to the community was unwavering. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired amongst his peers for his hard work, dedication and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing David N. Walsh continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DOCK MONTERIA BROWN

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, It is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to a community giant, Dock Monteria Brown, a very special friend who passed away on Tuesday, January 25, 2011.

Dock Monteria Brown was born on January 30, 1929 in Halifax County to Nelson and Vilvie Brown. His father was a Veteran of World War I.

Dock graduated from J.A. Chaloner Senior High School in 1948 and entered Shaw University that fall. In 1951, just one year before graduation, Dock was drafted into the U.S. Army and was deployed to fight in the Korean War.

He served for 12 months in Korea before returning to Fort Bragg and his native North Carolina to serve out the remainder of his tour. Immediately after his Honorable Discharge, Dock resumed his education at Shaw University and earned his undergraduate degree.

In order to fulfill his dream of becoming a teacher, Dock then attended my alma mater, North Carolina Central University and earned a Master's Degree in Sociology and School Administration. Dock taught high school History at Weldon High School and Eastman High School for 24 years, and served as principal of Pittman High School for 10 years.

As an educator, Dock Brown made a tremendous and undeniable impact on the lives of students in Halifax County. He was truly the catalyst for many young people growing into strong, well-educated and productive adult citizens.

Over his many years of service, he served as a Halifax County Commissioner; state representative in the North Carolina House of Representatives, Weldon Town Commissioner; Trustee at Elizabeth City State University, and as an appointee to the Governor's Commission to select Superior Court Judges. For his untiring service to the State of North Carolina, Dock was awarded the state's highest civilian honor—the Order of the Long Leaf Pine—by then-Governor James Hunt.

Dock Brown also served on the county's health board and he was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the State Mental Health Association for his tireless dedication to the issue of Mental Health.

He was also an active member of First Baptist Church in Roanoke Rapids starting at age 11, and he served in many capacities including Deacon for over fifty years.

Dock Brown was a true public servant with a legacy that will live on through the many people he inspired over the years, including myself. I had the pleasure of offering legislation to this body that was signed into law naming the Weldon, N.C. Post Office in honor to Dock Brown. It was a fitting honor, and I know his community will truly miss him.

Dock Brown leaves behind his wonderful wife, Helen, after nearly 60 years of marriage. They raised two wonderful children: Dock Brown, Jr. and Ivy Brown Singleton, who is married to U.S. Army Lt. Col. Terance Singleton, II.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable life of Dock Monteria Brown, and to join me in praying for his wife and family during these difficult times. I know they will draw comfort in knowing that he lived a great life and that he left a great and indelible mark on his community.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE BP DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL AND OFFSHORE DRILLING

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling for their thorough and comprehensive review of the disastrous Gulf oil spill. I appreciate the hard work and diligence of the Commissioners and their staff in compiling this report and know it will prove beneficial as we consider legislative responses to the spill during the 112th Congress. In addition, I would like to commend the Commission for completing the report on time and under budget.

By now, we are all too familiar with the account of the spill. On April 20th, a BP oil rig located 52 miles off of the Louisiana coast exploded with 126 workers on the rig, resulting in 11 families losing their loved ones. With no plan in place for failure of the blowout preventer and no clear leader in the federal response, efforts to stop the flow of oil from the

damaged well took far too long. The BP oil spill is now the largest spill in United States history and the environmental and economic impacts of this disaster will be felt for years to come. The report by the Oil Spill Commission provides further details of the causes of the spill, including the fact that the disaster could have been prevented to begin with.

The report also emphasizes that we can not just focus on reforming the deficiencies in current drilling regulations, we must also continue to monitor the environmental impact of the spill on the Gulf of Mexico. Recovery may take years and the long-term effects of the oil spill, as well as those of the response and clean-up efforts, are still unclear. This monitoring will ensure we are prepared to quickly respond to the unforeseen consequences of this spill.

Thankfully, institutions of higher learning around the country are already conducting vital research as we begin ecosystem recovery efforts, including at the University of South Florida whose College of Marine Science has become an international center for the study of our nation's and our world's waters and of our coastal lands. Together with the Florida Institute of Oceanography, also in St. Petersburg, which is drawing together all the state of Florida's marine research expertise, and a variety of other local, state and federal organizations, our community has provided key information to our nation's decision makers about the impact it is having on our environment and the development of long-term strategies to clean it up.

Last Congress in response to the Deepwater Horizon spill, I also introduced the SAFEGUARDS Act and was pleased to see many of the issues I had addressed in the measure included in the Commissions report, including updating the National Contingency Plan and ensuring that National Environmental Policy Act requirements are not ignored going forward. Their recommendations will prove useful as I work on revising this legislation for reintroduction later in the 112th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in thanking the Oil Spill Commission for their independent and impartial report. Their suggestions will prove useful as we continue our response to last years horrific oil spill and I urge my colleagues to work together to ensure the complete recovery of the Gulf of Mexico.

TRIBUTE TO CLIVE SIMPSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Clive Simpson of Boone County, Iowa. For the last 28 years, Clive has worked for the Boone News-Republican, delivering the "Boone County Shopping News" to rural Iowans.

Clive was born May 12, 1915 in Sac County, and he retired after working for 30 years for the Federal Highway Administration in Ames, Iowa. However, that retirement did not last long. At his wife's urging in 1982, Clive began delivering the "Boone County Shopping News" once a month every month. In the 28 years since, Clive has delivered over 187,000 issues and covered over 60,000 miles, all in his own

car. Now at the age of 95, Clive decided that it's finally time for him to officially retire.

I thank Clive for his strong and diligent work ethic. It is an admirable character trait, and one that I hope to see many Americans embody. Clive is a good role model for many younger Americans in that respect.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending Clive Simpson for his decades of service at the Boone News-Republican. It is an honor to serve as his representative, and I wish Clive and his wife Gertrude a happy and healthy retirement.

MEMORIALIZING MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE DETECTIVE CHRIS JONES

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize one of Bucks County's finest, Middletown Township Police Detective Chris Jones.

Chris Jones was working overtime on January 29, 2009 when he was struck and killed while in the performance of his duties.

As he was returning to his patrol car, two cars collided and careened into his vehicle, which then struck and pinned him under his own police cruiser. He was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries a short time later.

Mr. Speaker, our nation's police officers risk their lives every day in order to preserve communities throughout our country that are safe and free. Those who give their lives in that mission deserve our eternal gratitude.

Detective Jones served with the Middletown Township Police Department for 10 years and had previously served in the United States Navy for 7 years, a veteran of Operation Desert Storm. Just 37 at the time, Chris left a wife and three children at home the day he went to serve the people of his community.

Detective Jones is the only officer of the Middletown Township Police Department to have lost his life in the line of duty and he will be remembered this week during a solemn ceremony at the police station where he served.

HONORING DR. THOMAS M. GELLHAUS' LIFELONG DEDICA- TION TO WOMEN'S HEALTH AT HOME AND AROUND THE GLOBE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring the House's attention to the work and dedication of one of my constituents, Dr. Thomas M. Gellhaus.

Dr. Gellhaus is a longtime obstetrician-gynecologist in Davenport, Iowa, and earned his medical degree at the University of Iowa. He has delivered a generation of Iowans, cared for our daughters, wives, mothers, and grandmothers, and done everything he can to make sure their health is well-cared for.

For many years, Dr. Gellhaus has held a leadership position among ob-gyn members of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. He leaves this position this year, but leaves physicians with a long legacy of advocacy and caring for their patients.

Dr. Gellhaus has been a key advocate for patient safety in ob-gyn care and care for underserved women throughout the world. He's been a member of ACOG's Executive Board, helping guide health care policy; in 1999, he was chosen for ACOG's prestigious McCain Fellow Advocacy Program, in which a practicing ob-gyn works with Congress and the Administration; and was a member of the 2002 Class of the Primary Health Care Fellowship sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Gellhaus recently endowed a new program, the ACOG Gellhaus Resident Fellow Advocacy Award, which encourages 3rd and 4th year ob-gyn residents to work with Congress on behalf of women's health.

In addition to a very busy private practice, since 1996, Dr. Gellhaus has dedicated nearly a year of his life to the preparation for and participation in international health mission projects. These projects have taken him to Central America, South America, Africa and the Dominican Republic. He has been the project medical director for most of these missions; organizing, fundraising, securing medical supplies and recruiting medical personnel. During the missions, Dr. Gellhaus has worked with over 559 other mission participants. His medical teams have, over the years, had more than 18,520 patient encounters, dispensed 48,052 prescriptions and have performed more than 1,472 surgical procedures.

He has personally financed the cost of many participants' missionary project costs, without which they would not have been able to participate. Dr. Gellhaus' deep faith and compassion are lived through these medical missions. In 1999, Dr. Gellhaus was honored with the ACOG Award for International Service in recognition of his mission work in third world countries.

Dr. Gellhaus has a beautiful family, with his wife, Melanie, and their 3 daughters. He reminds us of what is right in America. It is my pleasure to honor Dr. Gellhaus' work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding care provided by the emergency room staff at the Veterans Memorial Hospital (VMH) in Waukon, Iowa. For their dedication to providing quality care and compassionate service, the VMH was recently awarded the 2010 Summit Award by the Press Ganey Association, recognizing it as one of the best emergency rooms in the nation.

The Summit Award is given every year to one hospital in the country that has consistently demonstrated a high level of patient satisfaction. Since 2007, Press Ganey has sent

out thousands of surveys to patients who have received care in an emergency room. These surveys are then collected, and the information in each is used to rank the hospitals according to the level of satisfaction its patients reported. In each consecutive quarter for the last three years, VMH has scored in the top five percent of hospitals nationwide and patient visits have increased by 15 percent.

I commend the staff of Veterans Memorial Hospital for their hard work in promoting superb care and a positive patient experience. It is this dedication to serving patients that we hope to see in hospitals around the country. I urge my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in congratulating Veterans Memorial Hospital for their achievement. I wish them the best of luck in the future.

HONORING CITY OF HOPE

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to City of Hope for reaching a milestone achievement, as its doctors performed their 10,000th bone marrow transplant, on January 13, 2011. City of Hope is one of the first biomedical research institutions in the world to reach this milestone. They give people battling diseases like leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma with a second chance at life.

City of Hope is a biomedical research, treatment and education center located in my district, the 32nd California Congressional district. Since its founding in 1913, City of Hope has achieved numerous scientific breakthroughs and pioneered many lifesaving procedures that benefit patients worldwide. It is one of only 40 comprehensive cancer centers, the highest designation bestowed by the National Cancer Institute.

This institution is a pioneer in the field of bone marrow transplantation. In the nearly 35 years since City of Hope physicians performed one of the nation's first successful bone marrow transplants, the institution has helped transplantation evolve into a gold standard treatment for several diseases.

Bone marrow or stem cell transplants typically include intensive high-dose chemotherapy and radiation, followed by weeks or even months of recovery in the hospital. The return on these hundreds of hours of treatment is the possibility of a renewed life cured of the disease.

City of Hope scientists continue to make transplants safer and more effective, and help extend the length and quality of patients' lives. New transplant procedures are improving cure rates, extending the procedure to older patients and expanding the use of transplants to diseases beyond leukemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma. As an example, researchers at City of Hope are developing a transplant based gene therapy for AIDS-related cancers that may be able to treat both the cancer and the HIV infection.

Today, City of Hope has one of the largest and most successful bone marrow transplant programs in the country. It is because of their dedicated physicians, nurses, and researchers who have helped transplantation evolve from an investigational procedure into a lifesaving

treatment for people here and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing City of Hope for reaching their 10,000th bone marrow transplant and providing hope to so many cancer patients—and their loved ones—worldwide.

IN RECOGNITION OF TROY D. FREEMAN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Police Corporal Troy D. Freeman, who is retiring after 28 years of law enforcement service—26 years of service to the City of Fairfield and three years with the San Francisco State University Department of Public Safety. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Troy began his law enforcement career as a Police Officer with the San Francisco State University Department of Public Safety. He was then hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on March 5, 1984. As an officer, he worked in various capacities including Patrol, K-9, Firearms Instruction, and Field Training. He joined the Special Activity Felon Enforcement (SAFE) Team in 1991, earned the Police Officer of the Year award in 2005, and was promoted to Police Corporal on August 19, 2005.

One of Troy's most significant contributions to the Police Department was his involvement with the K-9 Unit. He was a K-9 handler from 1989–2001 with two very special dogs, Cito and Brend, and continued to train and lead the K-9 program even after his dogs retired. He was responsible for developing, coordinating, conducting, and documenting all of the training for the K-9 Unit. He also managed the asset seizure records and researched updates in law and training methods. Troy was instrumental to the success of the Police Department's K-9 program.

Troy was a valued employee and leader of the Fairfield Police Department. His commitment to the community was unwavering. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired amongst his peers for his hard work, dedication and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Troy D. Freeman continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON BATES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievement of Brandon Bates, a Boy Scout from Winterset, Iowa, who recently received the Eagle Scout Award. I commend

Brandon on his perseverance and dedication to improving his community.

Brandon, who is the son of Jerry and Roxanne Bates, first joined the Boy Scout organization as a Tiger Scout at age 7. He went on to become a Cub Scout and then a Boy Scout. Throughout his years in scouting, Brandon has worked hard to earn many merit badges and awards, all of which involve personal betterment and community service. As a Cub Scout, he earned the "Arrow of Light," which is the highest award that a Cub Scout can earn. As a Boy Scout, Brandon has earned the World Conservation Award, the Leave No Trace patch, and now the Eagle Scout Award.

The Eagle Scout Award is the highest award that a Boy Scout can receive. In order to be eligible for this award, a Boy Scout must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges. Brandon has currently earned 40. Only 2% of Boy Scouts nationwide receive this honorable reward, and it is looked upon with distinction in the military, in many colleges and in the business world.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending Brandon Bates for his achievement. It is an honor to serve as his representative, and I wish him luck in the future.

HONORING MCKAY HATCH'S NO CUSSING EFFORTS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor McKay Hatch, founder of The No Cussing Club.

During middle school, McKay grew tired of the constant stream of obscene and cruel language from his peers that lowered their self-esteem. He courageously asked his classmates to not cuss around him. His peers accepted the challenge and stopped cussing and thanked him for his leadership efforts.

Encouraged by his peers' support for his efforts, McKay founded the No Cussing Club at South Pasadena Middle School. Club members take the No Cussing Challenge, which is a commitment to use better language. The commitment not only improves their lives but also the world around them by using empowering, instead of deflating, language. Through the club motto of "Leave People Better Than You Found Them," members seek out opportunities to lift people up through their words and actions.

In high school, McKay formed a No Cussing Club during his freshman year and it soon had over 100 active members. The club dedicated itself to spreading its message and adding members in all 50 states. Today the No Cussing Club has over 50,000 members, in all 50 states and 30 different countries.

McKay and the No Cussing Club have also worked with local and state leaders to designate local and state cuss free weeks. In 2008, the city of South Pasadena declared the first week of March and all subsequent first weeks of March as No Cussing Week. In 2009, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted a similar proclamation and in 2010 the California legislature adopted a

resolution declaring the first week of March to be No Cussing Week. The local and statewide No Cussing Weeks serve as a reminder to both public officials and private citizens to be more civil toward one another and to elevate the level of discourse in both public and private life.

McKay now travels regularly to spread his message of using clean and respectful language that is uplifting, encouraging, and motivating to students all over the country. He has recently expanded his efforts to encourage an end to bullying, which includes reducing the use of negative and discouraging language.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring the inspiring work of McKay Hatch.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM LEADER: I agree to take a leave of absence from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) with the understanding that I can be reappointed in the 113th Congress.

Serving on the HPSCI has been a privilege, and I have appreciated the opportunity it has afforded me to ensure that appropriate oversight is conducted over our intelligence and national security programs. Like you, I believe rigorous congressional oversight is critical to the successful implementation of such programs and helps reassure our constituents that their hard-earned tax dollars are being well-spent.

As you know, I am currently serving as a member of the House Committees on Education and the Workforce and Oversight and Government Reform. As such, and in light of the new Republican Majority's decision to reduce the number of members on standing committees in the House, I agree that it is appropriate at this time to take a leave of absence from the HPSCI with the understanding that I can be reappointed in the next Congress.

I thank you for the courtesy you have extended to me, and I look forward to continuing our work together on addressing the important challenges confronting the American people.

Sincerely,

JOHN F. TIERNEY,
Member of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO JORDANNE BLAIR

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Jordanne Blair of Lake City, Iowa. Jordanne, who was crowned Miss Rodeo Iowa 2010, recently represented Iowa in the Miss Rodeo America pageant in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jordanne is the daughter of Lee and Joanne Blair and is a 2009 graduate of South Dakota State University. She has been passionate

about competing in rodeos for many years, and has inspired that same passion in others as Miss Rodeo Iowa 2010. In that role, she was successful in establishing the annual Exceptional Rodeo in Lake City for handicapped individuals.

On December 4, 2010, Jordanne attended the Miss Rodeo America pageant in Las Vegas as the candidate from Iowa. Competing in the pageant were 28 women from around the country, and Jordanne was selected to be one of the ten semi-finalists. Although it was her close friend Haley McKenzie of South Dakota who took the title of Miss Rodeo America 2011, Jordanne had an exciting experience at the competition.

On January 1, 2011, Jordanne was succeeded by Heidi Gansen of Zwingle, Iowa, who is currently Miss Rodeo Iowa 2011. However, Jordanne has no plans to retire from the rodeo scene. She will advise Heidi in her new role, continue to promote the Exceptional Rodeo and the Lake City Rodeo, serve on the Miss Rodeo Iowa Board, and resume competitive barrel racing. Jordanne also plans to pursue a career in marketing or broadcast journalism.

I commend Jordanne for her devotion to her passion, her community and her state. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating and thanking her for the work she has done as Miss Rodeo Iowa 2010. It is an honor to represent her in Congress, and I wish her the best of luck in the future.

CENTER FOR AMERICAN VALUES TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Center for American Values (CAV) based in Pueblo, Colorado. They recently opened their doors with a mission to preserve fundamental American ideals including honor, integrity and patriotism. The organization is committed to ensuring that the values this nation was founded on are passed down to future generations.

The Center for American Values launch late last year was inspired by a few devoted individuals who seek to recognize citizens who have taken great risks in the name of protecting America's freedom. CAV's mission statement is concise: "A nonpartisan organization committed to recognizing the need to honor the extreme sacrifices made to help sustain America's values. We strive to ensure these extraordinary actions are preserved . . . forever." CAV emphasizes Medal of Honor recipients and other military heroes, and fittingly so—Pueblo is the home of four Medal of Honor recipients. Cofounders Drew Dix, a Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor winner, and Dr. Adolph Padula, who produced a documentary on Medal of Honor recipients, saw CAV as an opportunity to ensure that American citizens do not forget what makes our nation unique and exceptional. Both men also note that CAV honors heroes from all segments of society. For instance, the organization stresses remembrance of those who have taken economic risks when starting a new

business. Regardless of their background, risk-takers continue to propel our country forward.

Currently, The Center for American Values is directed by Tom Allee, with support from its corporate officers Brad Padula and Drew Dix, and board members Sue Smith and Bob Root. CAV is lined with over 140 pictures of Medal of Honor recipients and the building that the organization occupies has been fully renovated from its previous crumbling state. Through community outreach, educational opportunities, and frequent conferences and partnerships with charitable organizations, the CAV will continue to carry out its mission statement for years to come. Ultimately, CAV hopes to influence societal values on a national stage.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here today to recognize The Center for American Values. Their commitment to the public good and preservation of fundamental American ideals is a great service to the citizens of Pueblo and the nation at large.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measure. If I were present for roll call votes, I would have voted "aye" for the following vote: rollcall No. 12, January 18, 2011: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: H.R. 292, Stop the Over Printing (STOP) Act.

MARY WATT TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Watt of Montrose, Colorado. She has an exemplary record of public service to her community and has given countless hours of service to her hometown.

Mary began her remarkable career in public service in 1973, starting as an executive assistant to the city manager of Montrose. In 1979, she was promoted to city clerk and treasurer, where she handled a variety of issues, including budget preparation, administration of municipal elections, and interpretation of municipal and city ordinances. In 1993, Mary was given the post of administrative services director and city clerk. In this capacity she was recognized as a top public administrator, receiving the Manager's Award for Excellence in 1996, which cited her ability to balance her professional duties while remaining intensely involved in community service. Mary has quickly climbed the professional ladder in the past decade, rising from administrative services director in 2004, to interim city manager in 2005. In August 2005, the Montrose City Council appointed her as full-time City Manager, where she currently serves as CEO of Montrose, Colorado.

Mary is capable of lending her managerial and organizational skills in to a variety of

roles—she is truly multitalented. For instance, she served on the Montrose Chamber of Commerce, where she eventually led the organization as president. Her outreach and influence extends far beyond her professional life, too. Since 1980, she has been an active member of the Altrusa Club, a community service organization in Montrose. She has selflessly helped guide the club in multiple roles, most notably as president in 1986.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mary's track record as a reliable public leader. She has given decades of her life in pursuit of improving local government and her community.

A TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
VANG PAO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. KISSEL to honor the memory of Major General Vang Pao of Fresno, California, who passed away Thursday January 6th after a battle with pneumonia.

Major General Vang Pao led the Royal Lao Army during the Secret War in Laos, fighting against the People's Army of Vietnam in cooperation with the Central Intelligence Agency and United States military forces. Bravely leading thousands of soldiers in a guerilla war against communism, Vang Pao became a hero, due to his leadership and dedication.

Growing up in the Xiengkhuang province, Vang Pao became interested in military service early in life. He left his family farm as a teenager to join the French Military in defense of his fellow Hmong as the Japanese invaded, and began a historic military career. At the end of World War II, and the departure of the Japanese, Vang Pao was recruited as an officer in the First Indochina War to fight the Viet Minh.

As he rose within the Royal Lao Army, Vang Pao was heralded for his valor and dedication and was the only ethnic Hmong to attain the rank of General in the Royal Lao Army. In the early 1960's, when the CIA recruited Hmong men in Laos to join a guerilla unit during the Vietnam War, Vang Pao was chosen to be the commander. As his Hmong soldiers rescued downed American pilots from enemy territories and defended American outposts in Laos, he gained a reputation for being a disciplined, honorable leader.

The Hmong soldiers also attacked many North Vietnamese convoys that were using the Ho Chi Minh trail from North Vietnam into South Vietnam. By attacking these supply routes, thousands of U.S. soldiers' lives were saved in South Vietnam. Vang Pao and the Royal Lao Army valiantly fought for their cause throughout the entire Secret War.

Immigrating to the United States in May of 1975, Major General Vang Pao was instrumental in negotiating the resettlement of thousands of his fellow Hmong. Vang Pao continued his leadership after his exit from military service. He was active in fostering U.S.-Laos relations, and combating human rights abuses abroad, as well as serving as an icon and mentor to the Hmong-American community. A

widely respected figure, General Vang Pao was a constant feature at Hmong-American events and celebrations nationwide.

Major General Vang Pao is survived by his widow, Mrs. May Song Vang, 25 children, 68 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren and numerous friends and community members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. KISSEL and myself in honoring the life of Major General Vang Pao as we offer our condolences to his family and celebrate his memory and service to our country.

DR. S.K. RAO MUSUNURU

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. S.K. Rao Musunuru who will be recognized at the Community Aging and Retirement Services (CARES) Annual Benefit on February 5, 2011, for his continued philanthropic commitment to our community.

He began his formal study of medicine in 1968, but what is most noteworthy is his ability to couple his medical expertise with community involvement—enhancing the knowledge base, furthering the medical profession, and ensuring that local needs are met. While Dr. Musunuru boasts numerous memberships in nationally and internationally acclaimed organizations, including the American Medical Association, the International Society of Heart Transplantation, and the Society of Critical Medicine, he is still mindful of the medical needs in his own backyard.

He was instrumental in transforming a 50-bed rural hospital into a 290-bed Heart Institute, meriting recognition for its high standard of care. During his tenure as Chairman of the Board for Pasco Hernando Community College, the college had a 100 percent increase in nursing enrollment, and he has been vocal in his teachings of "proper prevention and prompt intervention, so that people can live longer and stronger."

Dr. Musunuru's involvement in the community certainly does not go unrecognized. He recently became the recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Physician Award and, for the second consecutive year, received Rotary International's highest honor, the Paul Harris Fellowship recognition. While his accomplishments and awards are extensive to list, words cannot adequately acclaim Dr. Musunuru achievements. The lives he has impacted are countless, and I applaud him for his resolve to use his talents to meet the growing needs of the community and the larger medical profession.

TED VALERIO TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Ted Valerio of Montrose, Colorado. The Montrose Police Department recently awarded him the Employee of the Year for 2010, as well as a Merit Citation.

Detective Valerio was hired on April 30, 2001. Since then, his superiors and coworkers have recognized him as a respected individual of exceptional character and integrity. Detective Valerio has taken the lead and solved a number of important felony cases in the past decade and continues to prove himself an asset on the force. Aside from his responsibilities as a detective, he administers pre-hire polygraph exams for all police department employees—he is the second polygraph examiner to ever work in the Montrose Police Department. Detective Valerio also serves on the Montrose Special Weapons and Tactics team (SWAT), which carries a great risk of personal injury.

Mr. Speaker, Detective Valerio is consummate law enforcement professional and I am proud to congratulate him on his recent awards. I would also like to thank him and the countless other officers who continue to serve their communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF MELVIN E.
FERRO

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Corporal Melvin E. Ferro, who is retiring after more than 28 years of law enforcement service to the City of Fairfield. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Mel started his law enforcement career when he was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on March 19, 1982. As an officer, he worked in various capacities including Patrol, Investigations, and Field Training. He earned awards for his performance, including Police Officer of the Year for 1994, and twice he was named Police Officer of the Quarter—June through October 2000 and again for July through December 2007. Mel served as a Field Training Officer beginning in 1995 and was later promoted to Police Corporal on December 31, 1999.

One of Mel's most significant contributions to the Fairfield Police Department has been his expertise in investigating and solving major crimes. His knowledge and memory pertaining to the activity and association of criminals in the area was a resource for the entire Police Department. He took community-orientated policing to a new level because he made an effort to learn where criminals lived in Fairfield, and he tracked their travel and associates. Additionally, as a trainer of fellow police officers, he taught what most police officers rarely develop—the craft of being a police officer.

Mel was a valued employee and leader in the Fairfield Police Department. His commitment to the community was unwavering. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired amongst his peers for his hard work, dedication and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Melvin E. Ferro continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 18, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

MARIANNA RAFTOPOULOS
TRIBUTE**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege as the representative of Colorado's 3rd district to rise and pay tribute to the inspirational life of Mrs. Marianna Raftopoulos. Mrs. Raftopoulos was a woman with a deep sense of civic conviction, a loving wife and mother of three.

Marianna Raftopoulos was raised on a sheep ranch in Western Colorado, and the spirit of the west remained with her for the duration of her exemplary life. After graduating from the University of Colorado, Marianna pursued many passions. Most notably were her efforts to improve Moffat County, and the Colorado Republican Party. She was a champion of many causes including chairwoman of the Republican Central Committee, The Moffat Tunnel Commission, The Moffat County Economic Development Partnership, and served as a Moffat County commissioner and chairwoman of Colorado Wildlife Commission. With the passing of Marianna Raftopoulos, Western Colorado has lost an inspiring leader, and our nation has lost a great patriot.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a true honor to stand in tribute and pay respect to the life of Mrs. Marianna Raftopoulos. She was a great leader, who is still greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING BONNIE ARD AS
WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA'S
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSON
OF THE YEAR**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Bonnie Ard as the 2012 Walton County, Florida Educational Support Person of the Year. I am honored to recognize her achievements and her dedication to the students and teachers of northwest Florida.

Bonnie Ard is the secretary for Maude Sanders Elementary School in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. Mrs. Ard considers the faculty and staff at the school to be a team and part of her family. She sets the tone for the rest of the school's faculty and staff, using her space in the front office to establish a professional, caring, and family-friendly environment that epitomizes the work of the faculty and staff at Maude Sanders Elementary. Tracey Dickey, Principal of Maude Sanders Elementary,

extols Mrs. Ard's excellent rapport with the parents and students of the school and her steadfast desire to seek to serve the parents and students of Maude Sanders Elementary as efficiently as possible.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Bonnie Ard as the Walton County Educational Support Person of the Year. Her passion for the students of Maude Sanders Elementary is laudable and her dedication to her profession is exemplary. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Ard, and we wish her all the best.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF SARAH BRACHMAN**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fellow Texan; Sarah Brachman, who has been named the National Down Syndrome Society's 2011 Advocate of the Year.

This young lady is one of more than 400,000 Americans living with Down Syndrome, but that has never slowed her down. She is more engaged than many in our political system—having interned here in Washington and in both Federal and State legislative offices in Kentucky where she's in school. And she truly is an advocate for the disabled, happily talking to anyone who will listen about her life and what it means to live with a disability, and personally recruiting over thirty Members of Congress, myself included, for the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you and all of our colleagues will join me in congratulating Sarah for this well deserved honor.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF
BROOKLYN CENTER'S CENTENNIAL**HON. ERIK PAULSEN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a wonderful community in my district, Brooklyn Center. 2011 is no ordinary year for Brooklyn Center, as next week they will celebrate their centennial.

A quaint suburb located west of Minneapolis, throughout its 100-year history, Brooklyn Center has embraced growth, the importance of family values, and the development of industry, all while maintaining its small-town charm.

Brooklyn Center's residents take great pride in its many diverse and successful residents, its great schools, many shops and recreation options—including the famous Dudley/Budweiser Minnesota Classic Softball Tournament.

As an avid biker, I appreciate Brooklyn Center's acres of picturesque parks and miles of trails. The city's many nature areas are a great representation of the community's pride and commitment to civic improvement.

Congratulations Brooklyn Center on 100 years of being "a great place to start and a great place to stay." I'm sorry I won't be there

to celebrate with you, but I hope your Centennial Celebration is truly the "Party of the Century."

RECOGNIZING VANESSA BUMP AS
WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA'S
TEACHER OF THE YEAR**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Vanessa Bump as the 2012 Walton County, Florida Teacher of the Year. For twenty years, Mrs. Bump has been an inspiration to her students, colleagues, and community; I am honored to recognize her achievements.

During her career as an educator, Vanessa Bump has served as the Media Specialist at Bay Elementary School, the Library/Media Specialist at Walton High School, and as a Social Studies Teacher in the Escambia County School District. She currently teaches Social Studies and Journalism at South Walton High School. Her outstanding performance was recognized there when she received the 2004 Walton High School Teacher of the Year award.

In addition to her distinction in the classroom, Mrs. Bump serves in myriad other capacities, including Yearbook Sponsor, School Technology Coordinator, Junior Class Sponsor, Prom Sponsor, History Fair Coordinator, and Project-Based Learning Trainer. She has also been presented with the Herff-Jones Outstanding Journalism Educator of the Year award and holds a National Journalism Certification.

Teachers are amongst our most valuable public servants, as they are responsible for educating the future of our country. To be honored as Teacher of the Year, selected from a pool of exemplary educators, is an immense honor. This honor is a reflection of the impact Vanessa Bump has had on her students and the difference she has made in their lives. She has proven herself to be among the many great teachers in our nation, and I am proud to have her as a constituent of Florida's First District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Vanessa Bump for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence at South Walton High School and in the Walton County School District.

HONORING LIZ BURNS, RECIPIENT
OF THE 2010 WESTERN SPRINGS
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Liz Burns, who will receive the 2010 Western Springs, IL Citizen of the Year Award on January 30, 2011. A resident of Western Springs for 47 years, Mrs. Burns has been an invaluable asset to her community in large part due to her contributions to the local library system.

Mrs. Burns was first appointed to the board of the Thomas Ford Memorial Library in 1991 and solidified her status as a permanent fixture on the board in 1993 with an election to a four-year term. She served as president of the board from 1995 to 1997 and oversaw the \$3.1 million library expansion project during her tenure. In 1997, she led efforts to produce and implement the Library's long-range plan, preserving a high-quality learning environment for generations to come.

Since the end of her term as president of the board, Mrs. Burns has served as a trustee at the Thomas Ford Library Foundation. She became chair of the Foundation's board of trustees in 2004, and has worked to build an endowment for the Friends of the Library's continuing educational programs and activities. Liz continues to serve her community as a volunteer reading tutor at the St. Gregory Episcopal School for Boys.

Born and raised in Charleston, IL and the youngest of six children, Mrs. Burns attended the University of Illinois, Urbana where she earned a degree in English. She taught English and Journalism at Riverside-Brookfield High School before starting her family. She later became licensed as a Certified Financial Planner and went to work at the Western Springs Federal Credit Union. Mrs. Burns moved on to Merrill Lynch in 1987 then to Charles Schwab in 1991 where she worked as a securities specialist until her retirement in 2002.

I ask you to join me in honoring Mrs. Liz Burns on her selection as a 2010 Western Springs Citizen of the Year, and may she continue to enjoy educating through her work as a tutor and a trustee of Thomas Ford Memorial Library.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE AUTONOMY ACT OF 2011

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Legislative Autonomy Act of 2011, to end the unnecessary and redundant congressional review of District of Columbia legislation. This bill would eliminate the congressional review period for civil (30 legislative days) and criminal (60 legislative days) legislation passed by the District of Columbia. Under the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, if a congressional resolution disapproving a D.C. bill is signed into law during the congressional review period, that bill does not become law. The congressional review period, which is limited only to those days when Congress is in session, delays D.C. bills from becoming law, often for many months. The delays force the D.C. Council to pass most bills several times, using a cumbersome and complicated process in which bills are passed on an emergency, temporary, and permanent basis to ensure that the operations of this large and rapidly changing city continue uninterrupted. The D.C. Legislative Autonomy Act would allow bills passed by the D.C. Council and signed by the mayor to become law immediately.

My bill would do no more than align the Home Rule Act with congressional practice

over many decades. Since the 1973 Home Rule Act, of the more than 4,500 legislative acts transmitted to Congress, only three resolutions to disapprove a D.C. bill have been enacted—in 1979, 1981, and 1991—and two of those involved distinct federal interests. Placing a congressional hold on 4,500 D.C. bills has not only proven unnecessary, but also a waste of money and time for both the District and Congress. Instead of using the formal disapproval process to overturn D.C. legislation, Congress has preferred to use appropriations riders. It is particularly unfair to require the D.C. Council to engage in a phantom process that Congress has itself discarded.

The wastefulness of the layover process is all the more apparent considering that my bill does not prevent review of District laws by Congress. Under clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the U.S. Constitution, the House and the Senate may scrutinize every piece of legislation passed by the D.C. Council, and, using that authority, change or strike such legislation at any time if it desired. My bill would only eliminate the automatic hold placed on local legislation and the need for the D.C. Council to use a process initially passed for the convenience of Congress, but one that Congress has since eliminated in all but law. The bill would promote efficiency and cost savings for both Congress and the District. The bill would benefit the city's bond rating, which is affected by the shadow of congressional review and the delay in the finality of District legislation.

The limited legislative autonomy granted in this bill would allow the District to realize the greater measure of meaningful self-government and home rule that it deserves, and has more than earned in the 37 years since the Home Rule Act became effective. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

IN MEMORY OF PAULINE MURILLO, ELDER OF THE SAN MANUEL BAND OF SERRANO MISSION INDIANS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to join me in praising the life of Pauline Murillo, who was a wonderful lady, a strong leader for the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians, and one of the most important chroniclers and teachers of Indian history in Southern California. Mrs. Murillo passed away Jan. 21, 2011.

Pauline Chacon was born in 1934 on the San Manuel Reservation, which is in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains in Southern California. When Pauline was a young child, the reservation was tucked away from any nearby towns, and was little known to the residents of San Bernardino County.

But from an early age, Pauline became involved with an effort to reach beyond the boundaries of the reservation to help area schoolchildren learn the history and culture of the San Manuel tribe. Pauline and her mother, Tribal Spokeswoman Martha Manuel Chacon, visited schools to share factual accounts of tribal history, culture and language.

Pauline would carry this work forward as a tribal culture bearer, native speaker, author

and presenter dedicated to a principal, "To never forget who you are or where you came from." Today she is regarded as one of the most knowledgeable and influential resources on Southern California Indian history and culture.

She married George Murillo in 1952, and together they have three children, eight grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Murillo wrote two books about her life and San Manuel culture and traditions, "Living in Two Worlds" and "We Are Still Here Alive and in Spirit." Both contained hundreds of rare photographs. She was instrumental in the creation of an interactive CD-ROM for the Serrano-language and made traditional Indian cradle dolls and other crafts.

Pauline and George are well known for their philanthropy, donating time and funds to hospitals, schools and non-profits to benefit the greater community. In 2009 the Murillos donated \$900,000 to Cal State San Bernardino to construct an observatory, which was named for the family. In 2008 the family's contribution to Loma Linda University Medical Center allowed the hospital to expand its lounge for oncology patients and their families and was rededicated to the family.

While Pauline Murillo was leading the San Manuel tribe in reaching out to the greater community, the cities of San Bernardino and Highland have grown to surround the reservation's borders. Although the reservation was once impoverished, tribal members have found success with the opening of casinos—and have become one of the top local employers in the process. As a highly-respected tribal elder, Pauline Murillo has ensured that the tribe remains a strong presence throughout the community. She was a member of the Highland Senior Center, the Highland Women's Club and the "Red Hat Ladies" service group.

Mr. Speaker, Pauline Murillo was beloved throughout our region—her nickname of Dimples tells much about her always-smiling presence. She was a treasured resource for Native American culture, identity and tradition. She spent hours with high school students and faculty telling of the language and history of the Serrano people. We will all miss her greatly. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in extending condolences to her loving family and friends, and to express our appreciation for the lifetime of service to her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL M. JOHNSTONE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Captain Michael M. Johnstone, who is retiring after nearly 30 years of law enforcement service—26 years of service to the City of Fairfield and almost four years with the Oakland Police Department. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Michael began his law enforcement career as a Police Officer with the Oakland Police

Department. He was then hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on October 29, 1984. As an officer, he worked in various capacities including Patrol, Investigations, Special Operations, Narcotics, and Field Training. He earned the Police Officer of the Year award in 1996, joined the Crisis Negotiation Team in 1997, and was promoted to Police Corporal on December 31, 1999.

On December 28, 2001, Michael was promoted to Police Sergeant and ultimately served in a number of capacities including Patrol, Investigations, Professional Standards, and Public Information. He was a strong and decisive leader which led to him receiving the Manager of the Year award in 2003. On December 7, 2007, he was promoted to Police Lieutenant and served as Commander for Patrol, Quality of Life, and Administrative Divisions. As the Police Department experienced changes in leadership and command staff, Michael consistently stepped in and assisted City management in filling the gaps. Over the last two years, he assumed the Captain's position and managed Patrol Operations twice and he also acted as Deputy Police Chief when needed.

Michael was a valued employee and leader of the Fairfield Police Department. His commitment to the community was unwavering. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired amongst his peers for his hard work, dedication and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Michael M. Johnstone continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING ALDO SANTORUM

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Aldo Santorum, the father of my friend and colleague, former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum.

Aldo Santorum passed away on January 15th in Crescent Beach Florida at the age of 88 in the home where he and his wife, Catherine Dughi, had spent the past 20 years together.

Aldo was an American patriot who served alongside fellow members of the Greatest Generation who honored the call to service in World War II.

After the war, Aldo Santorum took advantage of the GI Bill to earn a degree in psychology from St. Francis College in Loretto, Pennsylvania as well as a graduate degree from Catholic University in Washington and a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Ottawa.

Instead of going into private practice, Aldo devoted his professional career to serving fellow veterans as a clinical psychologist for the Veterans Administration.

Throughout his career, Aldo Santorum served in VA hospitals in Martinsburg, West Virginia, Butler, Virginia and in Chicago until 1990, when he and his wife Catherine retired to Crescent Beach, Florida.

In addition to his wife and children, Aldo Santorum is survived by an extended, but closely-knit family of 10 grandchildren.

I extend my condolences to Rick Santorum and the entire Santorum family for their loss.

INTRODUCING THE FEDERAL RESERVE TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Federal Reserve Transparency Act. Throughout its nearly 100-year history, the Federal Reserve has presided over the near-complete destruction of the United States dollar. Since 1913 the dollar has lost over 98% of its purchasing power, aided and abetted by the Federal Reserve's loose monetary policy. How long will we as a Congress stand idly by while hard-working Americans see their savings eaten away by inflation? Only big-spending politicians and politically favored bankers benefit from inflation.

Serious discussion of proposals to oversee the Federal Reserve is long overdue. I have been a longtime proponent of more effective oversight and auditing of the Fed, but I was far from the first Congressman to advocate these types of proposals. Esteemed former members of the Banking Committee such as Chairmen Wright Patman and Henry B. Gonzales were outspoken critics of the Fed and its lack of transparency.

Since its inception, the Federal Reserve has always operated in the shadows, without sufficient scrutiny or oversight of its operations. While the conventional excuse is that this is intended to reduce the Fed's susceptibility to political pressures, the reality is that the Fed acts as a foil for the government. Whenever you question the Fed about the strength of the dollar, they will refer you to the Treasury, and vice versa. The Federal Reserve has, on the one hand, many of the privileges of government agencies, while retaining benefits of private organizations, such as being largely insulated from Freedom of Information Act requests.

The Federal Reserve can enter into agreements with foreign central banks and foreign governments, and the GAO is prohibited from auditing these agreements. Why should a government-established agency, whose police force has federal law enforcement powers, and whose notes have legal tender status in this country, be allowed to enter into agreements with foreign powers and foreign banking institutions with no oversight? Particularly because the Fed has operated swap lines with foreign central banks and provided hundreds of billions of dollars of bailouts to foreign commercial banks, the Fed's negotiations with the European Central Bank, the Bank of International Settlements, and other foreign institutions should face increased scrutiny, most especially because of their significant effect on foreign policy. Given the currency crisis in Europe and the prospect of the Fed propping up foreign governments or bailing out American banks invested in European debt, this issue is of especially pressing concern.

The Fed's funding facilities and its agreements with the Treasury should be reviewed. The Treasury's supplementary financing accounts that fund Fed facilities allow the Treasury to funnel money to Wall Street without

GAO or Congressional oversight. Additional funding facilities that have allowed the Fed to keep financial asset prices artificially inflated and subsidize poorly performing financial firms should be scrutinized, as well as the Mortgage-Backed Securities Purchase Program, which has subsidized banks by transferring trillions of dollars of worthless debt off their books.

The Federal Reserve Transparency Act would eliminate restrictions on GAO audits of the Federal Reserve and open Fed operations to enhanced scrutiny. We hear officials constantly lauding the benefits of transparency and especially bemoaning the opacity of the Fed, its monetary policy, and its funding facilities. By opening all Fed operations to a GAO audit and calling for such an audit to be completed by the end of 2012, the Federal Reserve Transparency Act would achieve much-needed transparency of the Federal Reserve. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING PETE CARIS, RECIPIENT OF THE 2010 WESTERN SPRINGS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Pete Caris, who will receive the 2010 Western Springs, IL Citizen of the Year Award on January 30, 2011. Born and raised in Western Springs, Mr. Caris has been selected for this award in large part due to his accomplishments with the Western Springs Historical Society.

Mr. Caris was the president of the Western Springs Historical Society Board from 1999 to 2006. During his tenure, he has worked hard to raise funds for the Ekdahl House project to preserve and showcase one of the oldest houses in Western Springs. He has also volunteered at the Tower Museum where visitors can learn about the rich history of Western Springs. Mr. Caris stood out as a nominee for his award not only because of his position on the board, but also because of his hard work increasing the visibility of the Historical Society. He consistently leads public events including the Gathering on the Green and the Christmas Walk in his hometown.

In addition to being active with the Historical Society, Mr. Caris has been involved with the First Congregational Church of Western Springs for many years. He has also acted as a mentor to many young citizens while coaching church league basketball for 23 years. All of Mr. Caris' work in Western Springs, whether leading youth teams or ensuring the preservation of local historical treasures, makes him a deserving recipient of the 2010 Citizen of the Year award.

I ask you to join me in honoring Mr. Pete Caris on his selection as a 2010 Western Springs Citizen of the year, and may he continue to happily serve the citizens Western Springs, IL, young and old.

REPEALING THE JOB-KILLING HEALTH CARE LAW ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add one more story to this debate to help illustrate why the Affordable Care Act is so important. One of my constituents recently wrote to tell me that his 19 year old son has a rare liver disease and that his only hope is a transplant. Under the new healthcare reform law, he is now able to keep his son on his insurance plan to age 26. His household would be out of luck without healthcare reform as last year his son's health care costs exceeded \$120,000.

It is stories like these that are the essence of why passing health reform was so important. It provides protections to ensure that someone like my constituent can access health care and not face exorbitant personal costs when an illness strikes.

I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this repeal legislation and hope we can all work together to find ways to move our country forward.

THE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to introduce the High School Athletics Accountability Act. As opportunities for girls and women to participate in sports and athletics have been made increasingly available, women's participation has grown exponentially. Over three million high school girls now participate in organized sports, as opposed to 294,015 in 1971 before Title IX was enacted. Athletic participation has brought with it confidence and camaraderie among young women, giving them memories and friends that will last a lifetime.

Despite our progress, persistent attacks against equality for women's sports require that we continue to protect the rights our nation's young women deserve. Currently high schools are not required to disclose any data on equity in sports, making it difficult for high schools and parents to ensure fairness in their athletics programs. The High School Athletics Accountability Act requires that high schools report basic data on the number of female and male students in their athletic programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. The data will help high schools improve opportunities for girls in sports, and thereby help high schools and parents of schoolchildren foster fairness in athletic opportunities for girls and boys. Ultimately better information will encourage greater participation of all students in athletics.

Without information about how athletic opportunities and benefits are being allocated at

the high school level, female students may be deprived of their chance to play sports. For many young women, sports are often their ticket to higher education. A survey conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations indicates that female students receive 1.3 million fewer opportunities to play high school sports than do male students, which translate into many lost opportunities for athletic scholarships. Other studies show that student athletes tend to graduate at higher rates, perform better in school and are less likely to use drugs and alcohol. The New York Times recently highlighted research that found that the "increase in girls' athletic participation caused by Title IX was associated with a 7 percent lower risk of obesity 20 to 25 years later, when women were in their late 30s and early 40s." The study notes that while a 7 percent decline in obesity is modest, "no other public health program can claim similar success." Women athletes also tend to have more confidence, better body image, and higher self-esteem than female non-athletes—critical attributes that help them succeed throughout their lives.

We must give our schools the tools they need to identify inequities in their programs so that current and future generations of women can enjoy the benefits of sports.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to help girls move toward equality in athletics at every level and in every community across the Nation.

CONGRATULATING PAUL KARAFIOL ON RECEIVING THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EX- CELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Paul Karafiol, an educator at Walter Payton College Prep in Chicago, on receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Awardees are selected by a panel of scientists for their prowess in teaching pre-college-level science and mathematics. I am elated that Mr. Karafiol received this distinguished honor for the caliber of his teaching of math. His ability to convey mathematics concepts to students in clear and interesting ways provides a great benefit to Chicago, and the Presidential award is a well-earned recognition of his skill.

Mr. Karafiol is a Chicago native and Chicago Public School graduate. He received his bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Harvard University and his master's degree in Philosophy from the University of Chicago. Mr. Karafiol has always had a love for math. As a youth, he was on the Math Team at the Kenwood Academy. His first summer jobs involved working as a junior staff member in math programs for talented students held at

the University of Chicago, Hampshire College, and ENSAE in Toulouse, France. After teaching at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts for many years, Mr. Karafiol moved back to Chicago in 1997 to teach math at Providence-St. Mel, another wonderful school in Chicago. In 2000, he assisted in opening the math department at Walter Payton College Prep, becoming the Chairman of the math department in 2009. When you talk with Mr. Karafiol, his passion for teaching math is evident. He speaks of his excitement at understanding the connections among concepts and discovering surprises using numbers; it is this love of the subject that he shares with his students by creating environments in which they too can appreciate these learning revelations.

Walter Payton College Prep—the school at which Mr. Karafiol teaches—has an environment of continuous collaboration, reflection, and dedication to excellence. Through the commitment of Mr. Karafiol and the math department staff, Walter Payton College Prep was given the Intel Star Innovator award for the finest math and science program in the country. Over 150 schools competed in the Intel Schools of Distinction competition. Three schools were named as finalists in each of six categories: High School Math and Science; Middle School Math and Science; and Elementary Math and Science. Payton's math program was cited as the High School Mathematics winner; it also received the competition's grand prize—the Star Innovator Award. Mr. Karafiol notes that collaboration between the math and science departments at Walter Payton improve both departments' understandings of what math skills students need to be successful, when students need which skills, and how best to teach, reinforce, or remediate particular math skills. This joint process also helps Payton's math teachers gain new ideas about applications and contexts that they could integrate into their classes to improve mathematics learning. Impressively, over a quarter of the students at Walter Payton take five or more math courses before graduation. In addition to this rigorous set of core classes, many of the students at Walter Payton fill their electives with advanced placement statistics and/or university-level math courses: Over 99 percent of the student population scores as "Meeting or Exceeding" state math standards on the Prairie State Achievement Examination.

We have an obligation to the future of our Nation to assure every segment of our population has the opportunity to pursue careers in science and math. When children have an effective educator in these fields, they experience an excitement and understanding of math and science that increases their self confidence and interest in pursuing careers in science and mathematics. I celebrate with Mr. Karafiol and Walter Payton College Prep on the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Their dedication prepares students in Chicago to take an active role in making America a leader in math and science among the community of nations in the 21st century.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "TAX
CODE TERMINATION ACT"**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, last night we gathered in this Chamber to hear President Obama deliver his State of the Union Address. I was particularly encouraged to hear the President say, "the best thing we could do on taxes for all Americans is to simplify the individual tax code." The President stated he was prepared to join both parties in simplifying our tax code. I join the President in calling for a simplified tax code, and I rise today to introduce the Tax Code Termination Act. This legislation can be the impetus for overhauling our tax system.

The fact is our current tax system has spiraled out of control. At a time when Americans devote a total of 7 billion hours each year to comply with the tax code, we need tax simplification. Today's tax code is unfair, discourages savings and investment, and is impossibly complex. The Tax Code Termination Act will force Congress to finally debate and address fundamental tax reform. This bi-partisan legislation is simple. It will abolish the Internal Revenue Code by December 31, 2015, and call on Congress to approve a new Federal tax system by July of the same year.

While almost every Member would acknowledge that our tax code is no longer working in a fair manner for Americans, nothing has been done to create a more equitable tax code. Congress won't act on fundamental tax reform unless it is forced to do so. My bill will force Congress to finally debate and address fundamental tax reform.

Once this bill becomes law, today's oppressive tax code would survive for only four more years, at which time it would expire and be replaced with a new tax code that will be determined by Congress, the President, and the American people. This legislation will allow us, as a Nation, to collectively decide what the new tax system should look like. Having a date-certain to end the current tax code will force the issue to the top of the national agenda.

Although many questions remain about the best way to reform our tax system, I am certain that if Congress is forced to address the issue we can create a tax code that is simpler, fairer, and better for our economy than the one we are forced to comply with today.

Whichever tax system is adopted, the key ingredients should be: a low rate for all Americans; tax relief for working people; protection of the rights of taxpayers and reduction in tax collection abuses; promotion of savings and investment; and encouragement of economic growth and job creation. Taxes may be unavoidable but they don't have to be unfair and overcomplicated.

Just like other programs that require reauthorization, the tax code must be reviewed to examine whether it is fulfilling its intended purpose and then Congress must make any changes that are necessary.

America's future depends on overcoming the handicap of the current tax code. There is widespread consensus that the current system is broken, and keeping it is not in America's best interest. I urge my colleagues to support

this legislation and end the broken tax system that exists today.

IN HONOR OF SGT. ZAINAH C.
CREAMER**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero who was a respected and dedicated officer in the United States Army. On January 12, 2011, our state and nation lost a great patriot when Sergeant Zainah C. Creamer, aged 28, was killed in the line of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sgt. Creamer died in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near her unit.

Sgt. Creamer was born in Texarkana, Texas, and graduated from Arkansas High School in Texarkana, Ark., in 2000. Although I never had the honor of meeting Sgt. Creamer, it is clear by the outpouring of praise from her friends and family that she was a special person who deeply loved her country and never hesitated to help those in need. I extend my deepest condolences on behalf of all Arkansans to her family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances for this devastating loss.

Sgt. Creamer was assigned to the 212th Military Police Detachment, Headquarters Battalion, Fort Belvoir, Va. She was a soldier for more than six years and was an Army dog handler serving her second deployment with the 2nd Battalion of the 502nd Infantry Regiment.

With her bravery and dedication to duty, Sgt. Creamer exemplified what it meant to be a U.S. soldier; she made this nation and her family proud. My deepest thoughts and prayers go out to all of her family and friends during this very difficult time.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Army Sergeant Zainah C. Creamer and her legacy, as well as each man and woman in our Armed Forces, and all of those in harm's way supporting their efforts, who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to this great country. We owe them our eternal gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT D.
BUNTING**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lieutenant Robert D. Bunting, who is retiring after 27 years of law enforcement service—21 and a half years of service to the City of Fairfield and five and a half years with the Calistoga Police Department. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Robert started his law enforcement career as a Police Officer with the Calistoga Police

Department. He was then hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on June 12, 1989. As an officer, he worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Firearms Instruction, and Field Training. Robert joined the Special Activity Felony Enforcement, SAFE, Team in 1992 and was promoted to Police Corporal on September 20, 2002.

On February 4, 2005, Robert was promoted to Police Sergeant and ultimately supervised a number of different teams including Violent Crime Suppression, Special Enforcement, and Patrol. Since being promoted to Police Lieutenant on May 9, 2008, he has served as the Commander for the Major Crimes Division, Patrol, and Public Information. Not only was Robert a capable and decisive leader but he also demonstrated resourcefulness, teamwork, and a devotion to duty which led to him receiving a Distinguished Service Medal in 2007. Additionally, he has received numerous commendations from community members, local businesses, and supervisors during his career.

Robert was a valued employee and leader of the Fairfield Police Department. His commitment to the community was unwavering. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired amongst his peers for his hard work, dedication and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Robert D. Bunting continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSI-
NESS DURING TENURE ON BUDG-
ET COMMITTEE**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following letters:

JANUARY 25, 2011.

Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI,
U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER PELOSI, This letter is to advise you that, effective today, I am taking a leave of absence from the Committee on Small Business until my tenure on the Committee on the Budget is completed. It is my understanding from Clause C of Rule 19 of the Democratic Caucus rules (referenced below) that I will continue to accrue seniority during the leave of absence, at the same rate as if I had continued to serve on the Committee on Small Business.

Rule 19, Clause C: "Any Member of the Committee on the Budget shall be entitled to take a leave of absence from service on any committee or subcommittee during the period he or she serves on the Budget Committee and seniority rights of such Member on such committee and on each subcommittee to which such Member was assigned at the time shall be fully protected as if such Member had continued to so serve during the period of the leave of absence."

Accompanying this letter is a letter from the Democratic Leader verifying that my seniority on the Committee on Small Business will continue to accrue during my absence.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

HEATH SHULER,
Member of Congress.

JANUARY 25, 2011.

Hon. HEATH SHULER,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR HEATH: Thank you for your interest in serving on the House Budget Committee in the 112th Congress. According to the Democratic Caucus rules, members are entitled to take a leave of absence from their standing committee until their tenure on the Budget Committee is complete. Thus, your full seniority on the Small Business Committee shall be fully protected for the duration of your service on the Budget Committee.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
House Democratic
Leader.
ROSA DELAURO,
Co-Chair House
Democratic Steering
& Policy Committee.

JANUARY 25, 2011.

Democratic Steering and Policy Committee,
Chairwoman ROSA DELAURO,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN DELAURO: This letter is to advise you that, effective today, I am taking a leave of absence from the Committee on Small Business until my tenure on the Committee on the Budget is completed. It is my understanding from Clause C of Rule 19 of the Democratic Caucus rules (referenced below) that I will continue to accrue seniority during the leave of absence, at the same rate as if I had continued to serve on the Committee on Small Business.

Rule 19, Clause C: "Any Member of the Committee on the Budget shall be entitled to take a leave of absence from service on any committee or subcommittee during the period he or she serves on the Budget Committee and seniority rights of such Member on such committee and on each subcommittee to which such Member was assigned at the time shall be fully protected as if such Member had continued to so serve during the period of the leave of absence."

Accompanying this letter is a letter from the Democratic Leader verifying that my seniority on the Committee on Small Business will continue to accrue during my absence.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

HEATH SHULER,
Member of Congress.

JANUARY 25, 2011.

Hon. HEATH SHULER,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR HEATH: Thank you for your interest in serving on the House Budget Committee in the 112th Congress. According to the Democratic Caucus rules, members are entitled to take a leave of absence from their standing committee until their tenure on the Budget Committee is complete. Thus, your full seniority on the Small Business Committee shall be fully protected for the duration of your service on the Budget Committee.

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NANCY PELOSI,
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cratic Steering &
Policy Committee.

HONORING RESIDENTS OF THE
VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS,
ILLINOIS ON THEIR 125TH ANNI-
VERSARY AS A VILLAGE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the residents of Western Springs, Illinois, a village in my district and my hometown, which will celebrate its quasiquintennial anniversary on January 30, 2011.

Western Springs enjoys a long and colorful history beginning in the early 19th century. The area, originally consisting of swampland and flat plains, was settled by a small population of farmers in 1834. These rural families enjoyed a very quiet life until the CB&Q Railroad arrived in 1863. New construction filled the swamps and the Western Springs Land Association purchased the three tracts of land on which Western Springs now sits for \$105,000.

Many of the area's earliest inhabitants were Quaker, so the town adopted a personality that included a simple lifestyle and a prohibition of alcohol. Eventually, developer Thomas Clarkson Hill moved to the area and helped to organize the community to attract more residents. Area inhabitants built a school house in 1872 and a post office in 1873 and as more new immigrants arrived, Quaker influence dwindled. After several more community projects, the Village of Western Springs incorporated in 1886, named for the mineral springs to the southwest of the town.

In 1890, the Village hired Edgar and Benezette Williams to design and build a waterworks system after the local water springs were depleted. The famous Western Springs Water Tower was part of that project and still stands 112 feet tall as a National Register Historic Place.

Western Springs' other most historic site is the Ekdahl House, built by August Ekdahl as a general store. The general store was one of the town's first businesses and later served as a post office. The building is now a museum where local residents can learn about the history of their village. The preservation of the Water Tower and the Ekdahl house can be attributed to the efforts of the determined members of the Western Springs Historical Society.

Although Western Springs has come a long way since its days as a Quaker farm settlement, it is still a safe and quiet town as demonstrated by its being named by Business Week a "Great Place to Raise Kids" and one of CNN Money's "Best Places to Live." My wife Judy and I are proud to be counted among the Village's 12,493 residents. I will gather with my fellow Western Springs residents at McClure Junior High on January 30th to celebrate the Village's 125th year. We will enjoy festivities including a giant tower cake, ice skating, and a bonfire, along with honoring the 2010 Citizens of the Year.

I ask you to join me in honoring the residents of Western Springs, Illinois on their 125th anniversary as a village. May they enjoy this weekend's celebration and may the Village continue to thrive as a close community.

COMMENDING THE EFFORTS OF
NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, parents across this country have taken a stand, and they are demanding more academic choices for their children. In that spirit, I would like to highlight that this week, January 23–29, marks the inaugural "National School Choice Week," an event that promotes giving parents a choice on education.

The mission of National School Choice Week is simple: we need a K–12 education system that provides a wide array of options. We need an effective education system that has the flexibility to personalize and motivate students and allow parents to choose the school that is best for their child.

To provide a system of learning that meets the needs of tomorrow's students, we need to empower the parents, teachers and school systems today. I am honored to take this opportunity to champion this cause and the individual freedom to choose. I believe that promoting educational choice for parents and students is a vital part of the educational process. Our students deserve the best teachers, facilities, and studying environments. I am proud to say that I am "all in" for National School Choice Week.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BLACK
JANUARY IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the people of Azerbaijan in remembrance of the tragic events of Black January, when at midnight of January 19, 1990, 26,000 Soviet troops stormed the capital city of Baku with tanks and armored vehicles.

That night the Soviet military machine intended to restore public order by bulldozing innocent people and firing on peaceful demonstrators, including on women and children. According to Azerbaijani records, as a result of this merciless act authorized by then President Mikhail Gorbachev, 130 people died, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested, and 5 went missing.

Human Rights groups have condemned the Baku incursion for its attacks on medical personnel, ambulances and even hospitals. The punishment inflicted by Soviet soldiers was intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in other Republics of the Soviet Union. The Soviet use of force in Baku was a desperate attempt to rescue the totalitarian regime. However, Black January had the opposite effect on Azerbaijan. It consolidated the rising independence movements in the country and united the Azerbaijani nation in their quest for freedom.

Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country and has become an essential partner of the United States in the region, collaborating on strengthening energy security and working together to counter terrorism and extremism. I would like to thank the Azerbaijani

people for their friendship and share my thoughts and prayers with the families of those who gave their lives fighting for a better Azerbaijan. The United States will continue to work with Azerbaijan and other countries in the region to promote human rights, maintain stability, strengthen institutions, enhance the rule of law, and settle conflicts.

HONORING THE LATE HMONG GENERAL VANG PAO FOR HIS VALIANT SERVICE AND STEADFAST ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to General Vang Pao, the revered leader of the Hmong community residing in my Northern California congressional district and throughout the United States. I join that community in mourning his loss.

It is fitting for all Americans to pause and reflect on General Vang Pao's steadfast alliance with the United States during the Vietnam War. General Vang Pao commanded the Secret Army, a highly effective CIA-trained and supported force that fought against the Pathet Lao and People's Army of Vietnam. His tremendous courage and leadership aided American soldiers against aggression from the North Vietnamese. By fighting valiantly at our nation's side, he helped preserve and protect our way of life.

Our nation should not forget General Vang Pao's contributions to the American cause. We must also remember the Hmong who lost their lives or who were forced out of their homeland as they fought against the evils of communism. They sacrificed tremendously and deserve our enduring gratitude.

HONORING MELVIN E. ZIEGLER

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melvin E. Ziegler, who soon is to receive the World War II Bronze Star Medal. This prestigious award is given to those in the United States Army distinguished as heroic or meritorious during their service fighting against an enemy of the United States.

Mr. Ziegler fought in the 88th Infantry Division during World War II in Italy. He previously was honored with the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman Badge. Unbeknownst to Mr. Ziegler, he was awarded The Bronze Star Medal; however, it was never awarded or issued to him. Melvin recently received a letter from the Department of the Army informing him of this honor. I am pleased to say that after 65 years, Melvin E. Ziegler will receive the medal he so greatly deserves.

During World War II, Private Ziegler was part of the force driving the Nazis from North

Italy. Melvin was shot by a German machine gunner. The bullet was stopped from going through his chest by a New Testament Bible that he held in his chest pocket. Mr. Ziegler stated that he frequently did not read the Bible at the time, but since that fateful day, he reads it often.

Melvin currently lives in Owensville, Missouri, with his wife of over 60 years, Iola. He will be presented the medal on Sunday, January 30, 2011, at his church of 20 years, the Salem Full Gospel Church in Salem, Missouri. Surrounded by his family, friends, and congregation members, Melvin E. Ziegler will finally receive the Bronze Star Medal for his service and heroism.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Melvin E. Ziegler for this celebrated award and thank him for his service to this great country.

REDUCING NON-SECURITY SPENDING TO FISCAL YEAR 2008 LEVELS OR LESS

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 38, an irresponsible piece of legislation that asks the members of the House to abdicate their responsibility to vote on a budget for the federal government. This resolution opens the door to massive funding cuts to programs that are critical to our fragile economic recovery.

Mr. Speaker, with H. Res. 38 the Republicans have offered what they call a "Budget Resolution"—but what should be called a "Budgetless Resolution" because it contains no numbers, no specifics and, worst of all, no ideas for job creation or economic recovery.

Instead, it takes the unprecedented step of giving unilateral authority to the Budget Committee chairman to set spending limits for the federal government. With all due respect to Chairman Ryan, no members of Congress should ever contract out their vote to another member—especially not on something as fundamentally important as setting funding levels for the federal government.

H. Res. 38, the Budgetless Resolution, is a one-page document that makes the vague and simplistic goal of reducing federal spending to 2008 levels or less. Democrats are serious about deficit reduction. But we also must make sure that we continue on the path to economic recovery.

Mr. Speaker, we have to be able to walk and chew gum at the same time. If we are going to work on deficit reduction—as we should—we should go through the budget surgically, examining where federal investments are working and where they are not.

The Republican plan is the exact opposite approach—it is deficit reduction while blindfolded. The across the board Republican budget cuts would seriously hurt the people in my district by gashing funding for critical programs.

We are not talking about "duplicative" or "wasteful" spending. We are talking about Title I education funding that gives poor students after-school support that helps them

reach their full potential; GOP cuts would leave over 332,000 students in California without extra academic support.

We are talking about Title II education funds that keep class sizes small and classrooms more focused; GOP cuts would lay off over 1,000 teachers in California, resulting in dramatically larger class sizes for students in my district.

And this is just one example of the effect that Republican budget cuts would have in one state and in one area. Imagine how devastating the cumulative effect of Republicans' blind, across the board cuts. We are not talking about stripping funding for "bridges to nowhere"—we are talking about real people; real lives; real families.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to cut spending, let's not do so blindly. Let's have a bipartisan conversation about what our spending priorities are and where we can afford to trim the budget. I am certain that we can come to some agreement if we at least allow a conversation to be had. Deficit reduction is one of Democrats' top priorities. But we owe it to the American people to do so responsibly.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H. Res. 38.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,062,239,904,820.69.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,423,814,158,526.89 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING ROSEMARIE DUERTA HUGGINS FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CABRILLO CIVIC CLUBS OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosemarie Duerta Huggins for her outstanding leadership and service as the 2010 President of Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California, Inc.

Rosemarie is a long-standing civic leader in California's Portuguese community. Upon joining Cabrillo Civic Club #10 Fresno County in 1967, Rosemarie embraced the mission of the Clubs, which is to be dedicated to the progress of California in memory of Portuguese compatriot, Joao Rodrigues Cabrilho, discoverer of California; to observe September 28 of each year as "Cabrillo Day"; to erect and maintain appropriate memorials, shrines and landmarks of Portuguese navigators who discovered and explored California; to teach

and foster Americanization; to promote scholarships; and encourage better education and to perpetuate the achievements of their pioneer forefathers in the Golden State.

As president, Rosemarie served the Clubs' membership and communities of California with exemplary service. Her dedication led to expansion of the Clubs' charitable services and programs, including organizing blood drives, coordinating fundraising efforts for polio and cancer research, and assisting candidates for U.S. citizenship. During Rosemarie's tenure, the Clubs also awarded approximately 157 deserving students of Portuguese descent with \$500 scholarships for higher education.

Prior to her service as state president, Rosemarie served in several capacities to help advance the Clubs' mission, including assuming the role of president of the Club's Fresno County Chapter from 1992 to 1993. Through her chairmanship on program and fundraising committees, Rosemarie was also highly instrumental in fostering awareness of the Club's founding principles including supporting scholarship and education, Americanization, and participation in civic affairs in the local community and across California. In addition to her years of service with the California Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California, Inc., Rosemarie has successfully attended to the needs of her household, her career at Children's Hospital Central California, and her duties as an active member of the Portuguese Lodge SPRSI and Clovis Hills Community Church.

Rosemarie lives by the conviction that "It is up to us to keep our heritage alive so it will not perish." Her leadership and dedication is highly commendable and should serve as an example for all of us to follow. I ask my colleagues to rise with me to honor Rosemarie Duerta Huggins for her many contributions and countless efforts that have kept the Portuguese legacy vibrant in communities across California and our great nation.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE RICHARD FIELDS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazing legal professional and one of my mentors, Judge Richard Fields.

Judge Fields is being honored on February 10, 2011, by the Center for Heirs Property Preservation with the Commitment to Justice Award. Although I cannot be there in person due to Congressional obligations, I cannot allow this occasion to pass without adding my personal recognition of this remarkable man.

Judge Richard E. Fields has a story not unlike that of many African Americans born in the segregated South. He was born and raised in Charleston, South Carolina to parents who spent their youth working in the fields, unable to earn more than a fourth grade education. Yet that didn't stop them from wanting a better life for their son.

Judge Fields left home in 1940, and went to West Virginia State College, now University, where he earned a BS in Business Administration. In 1944 he entered the Howard University Law School and graduated with a law degree in 1947.

Two years later, Judge Fields returned to his hometown and became the first African American to open a law office in Charleston since the early 1900s and he had the distinction of becoming the first black litigator.

After distinguishing himself over two decades as an outstanding legal advocate, he was elected in 1969 as a Municipal Judge for the City of Charleston. He served in that position until 1975, when he was elected Judge of the Family Court of Charleston County. Five years later, he was elected Judge of the Circuit Courts of South Carolina where he remained until his retirement in 1992.

In retirement, Judge Fields has been very active in the legal community. He was a member of the Committee to Establish the School of Law and now serves on the Advisory Committee to the Charleston School of Law which was established in 2004.

In 1952, Judge Fields joined the Claflin College, now University, Board of Trustees, where he served for more than 50 years. In 1992, the Richard E. Fields and Myrtle E. Fields Scholarship was established at Claflin to provide financial assistance to students of merit.

Throughout his career, Judge Fields has served on numerous boards and committees in both the public and private sectors. In 1980, he along with several businessmen, established the Liberty National Bank, and he served on its Board of Directors for a number of years.

After returning to Charleston to practice law, Judge Fields resumed his membership in historic Centenary Methodist Church. He was elected Treasurer of that congregation in approximately 1950, and held that position for more than 50 years. He has been the Church's delegate to the South Carolina Annual Conference for more than 50 years. In 1970, Judge Fields was elected to the General Board of Finance and Administration, the corporate body of the Church.

He has been honored by the local chapter of "100 Black Men" and by the American Board of Trial Advocates which established "The Richard E. Fields Civility Award" to be given annually to a judge or attorney embodying his high standards of decency, civility, and equanimity. West Virginia State University also honored him in 2009 as the Alumnus of the Year.

In addition to all his public accolades, I must add my personal commendation to Judge Fields. I often recount the story of when I was a young man just out of college intent on changing the world from my place in Charleston, Judge Fields gave me advice that I will never forget. He reminded me of the story of the three little pigs and the wolf that huffed and puffed and couldn't blow their brick house down. Judge Fields equated the obstacles that had been built to keep African Americans out to the brick house. He told me, "You got to get inside. You can't change things from outside no matter how well-meaning you may be." Judge Fields words helped me to define my political philosophy, and that is how I have come to build a career as a public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the transformative work of The Honorable Richard Fields. His life story is an example of overcoming obstacles with integrity and leadership. He continues, through his work with the Center for Heirs Property Preservation, higher education insti-

tutions, his church and his legal profession, to promote opportunity and justice for all. Judge Fields is a South Carolina and a national treasure, who is very deserving of this recognition.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SBIR ENHANCEMENT ACT, THE SBTT ENHANCEMENT ACT, AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce three bills that will strengthen the existing Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Program by increasing the percentage of federal funding that goes to these important programs and increasing the size of the grants, which have significantly declined in real value since they were last authorized. The bills are H.R. 448, the Small Business Innovation Enhancement Act; H.R. 447, the SBIR Enhancement Act; and H.R. 449, the SBTT Enhancement Act.

Small companies, like Cellular Bio-engineering, Oceanit, and Archinoetics in Hawaii are a source of great innovative talent. However, too many great ideas never come to fruition because small entrepreneurial firms lack the resources they need to test an idea and bring it to fruition. The Small Business Innovation Research, SBIR, Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer, SBTT, Program have proven track records.

The SBIR Program, for instance, has awarded some \$16 billion in awards since 1983. Some 1.45 million people are employed in SBIR firms and these firms have 450,000 employees with graduate degrees in engineering and science—more than all U.S. academic institutions combined.

However, the number of new firms entering into the SBIR program has declined drastically in recent years. Part of the reason is the difficulty in applying for grants and the fact that the grant maximum amount for Phase I of the program was limited to \$100,000. My bill doubles that amount to \$200,000. Phase I funding is used to explore the scientific, technical, and commercial feasibility of an idea or technology.

Phase II funding, previously limited to a maximum of \$750,000, is increased to \$1.5 million in my bill. Phase II awards are given to companies that successfully complete phase I and can be used for R&D work as the developer moves to commercializing their invention.

The Small Business Technology Transfer Program or SBTT is very similar to SBIR, but the grants are specifically designed to fund public/private collaborations between nonprofit research institutions and small businesses that want to develop commercial applications for technologies developed by those institutions. The SBTT program uses the same Phase I and Phase II funding formula as SBIR. Eligible nonprofit research institutions include U.S.-based nonprofit colleges or universities, domestic nonprofit research organizations, and federally funded R&D centers. The University of Hawaii would be an eligible institution for SBTT grants.

Last year, when the House prohibited Members of Congress from seeking earmarks for private companies, I worried about the effect this would have on small high technology companies in Hawaii and throughout the country. I've been so impressed by the innovative scientists and engineers I've met and have proudly sought earmarks in the past to further their work. In the absence of earmarks, I believe that strengthening the SBIR and SBTB programs is our best chance to provide the opportunities these creative entrepreneurs need to create new businesses and products that will provide good jobs, strengthen our economy, and improve our quality of life.

In his State of the Union address last night, President Obama highlighted the importance of encouraging private sector innovation to spur economic growth and exports. Passing my bills to strengthen SBIR and SBTB would be a good first step.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ASSESSMENT ACCURACY AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, as Congress considers the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act this year, we have an obligation to listen closely to the students, parents, and educators that we represent to ensure that our efforts result in responsible and pragmatic improvements. While we have made great strides in the areas of assessment and accountability over the last nine years, this reauthorization provides a critical opportunity to learn from our experiences and fine-tune the law.

One example of a lesson my constituents have learned, and have vigorously shared with me, is that we should be encouraging states to move towards better assessment models. As I have met with educators over the past several years, one of the primary concerns that I have heard is that the state assessment fails to provide information of value to educators and administrators. Even more disturbing, it often takes four to six months before scores are returned to schools, which leaves little or no time for teachers to use the information to address student performance before they advance to the next grade.

However, I believe there is a sensible solution that Congress can adopt to address these concerns and give states more options in assessment design. Today, Rep. DAVID WU and I are introducing the bipartisan Assessment Accuracy and Improvement Act of 2011 to give states the option to use adaptive testing as their statewide assessment measuring reading, math, and science to fulfill No Child Left Behind requirements. I believe that this legislation will give states the ability to truly track the academic growth of every child and provide more accurate information to teachers, parents and school administrators through the use of an adaptive test.

For those who may be unfamiliar with adaptive testing, it is a test that changes in response to previously-asked questions. For example, if a student answers a question correctly, the test presents a question of in-

creased difficulty. If a student answers incorrectly, the test presents a question of decreased difficulty. As you can see, an adaptive test customizes itself to a student's actual level of performance with a great degree of accuracy.

Giving states the flexibility to use an adaptive test and to ask questions outside of grade level will improve the accuracy of student assessment and enable educators to target appropriate instruction for each child based on performance at, above, or below grade level. In addition, using an adaptive test over time will allow accurate measurement of the performance growth of each individual student.

In Wisconsin, hundreds of school districts currently use their own funds to participate in adaptive testing in addition to the state assessment required by NCLB. Educators and administrators appreciate the diagnostic information it yields and the efficiency that it provides. I believe that school districts nationally are already "speaking with their wallets" by spending scarce resources to voluntarily participate in this testing because it provides valuable information that the state assessment does not.

Additionally, 30 states are currently participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, SBAC, one of the two state assessment consortia to receive funding under Race to the Top. SBAC is developing a researched-based computer adaptive test aligned to the common core standards. This legislation will ensure that these states will be able to fully utilize the capabilities of this next assessment.

Mr. Speaker, adaptive testing is one of the keys to putting the 'child' back into No Child Left Behind. I hope that our colleagues will join us in this pragmatic and responsible improvement to the law as we work towards a bipartisan reauthorization this year.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 242

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, for the last few years, national forests throughout California have been in the process of implementing the Forest Service's 2005 Travel Management Rule, TMR. As a result, many national forests have proposed to reduce off-highway vehicle, OHV, access by 90 percent or more, in addition to restricting use on so-called maintenance-level 3, ML-3, roads by classifying them as "highways."

Throughout the travel management process, recreational users and local governments provided substantive documentation and comments to address safety issues and other concerns with this flawed policy. Despite the best efforts of these elected officials and pro-access groups, their comments were all but ignored as the Forest Service moved forward with the TMR. For these reasons, and given the significant economic damage this rule will cause to recreational communities throughout California, I have introduced legislation, H.R. 242, to restrict funding to the Forest Service to continue implementing the TMR in the State of California until the agency develops a more balanced and workable OHV policy.

Repeated requests for the Forest Service to change course within its own authority have gone unanswered. This legislation will help ensure that this agency is being held accountable to the public it is required to serve instead of using their tax dollars to restrict access to their Federal lands. I would encourage you to support H.R. 242.

JOB CREATION, ECONOMIC RECOVERY, AND DEBT REDUCTION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as the 112th Congress goes to work on the policies and actions needed to move America forward, Democrats continue to make job creation, economic recovery and debt reduction the top priorities. Unfortunately, the first actions by the new Republican Majority are not consistent with these priorities.

These goals should be accomplished in a way that is aligned with the needs of working families—what will generate good jobs for working people; what will ease the burden for middle class families; what will create long-term economic growth for everyone. Democrats measure everything Congress does by these goals.

In the 37th district of California, things are improving, but unemployment and foreclosure rates are still well above the national average; this is the time to keep moving forward with policies tailored to help working families. Now is not the time to move backwards to policies that got us into this recession in the first place.

The Republicans have employed a lot of rhetoric about jobs and the economy; however, their first actions in control of the House show no follow through. The initial issues being pursued by the GOP are:

The repeal of Health Care Reform. Republicans knew the repeal would go nowhere in the Senate, but still insisted upon wasting valuable time that could have been spent on job creation.

The Republicans have offered what they call a "Budget Resolution"—but what should be called a "Budgetless Resolution" because it contains no numbers, no specifics and, worst of all, no ideas for job creation or economic recovery.

The Budgetless Resolution is a one-page document that makes the vague goal of reducing federal spending to 2008 levels. This budgetless resolution opens the door to reckless slashes in funding to programs that are critical to our fragile economic recovery.

In California alone, Republicans' blind budget slashing would cut 237 million from Title I funding for poor students. The cuts would leave over 332,000 poor students in California without additional academic support that helps them perform to their full potential in school and, ultimately, achieve their dreams and goals; this does not help us stay competitive in the global marketplace. And this is just one example of Republican cuts in one area in one state. Imagine the damage that Republicans' across the board, reckless cuts will do to our economic recovery.

This is not the smart way to manage the budget. It is worse than arbitrary; it is like

budgeting with blindfolds on. It gives no thought, no reasons and no real discussion on how the cuts would be made and what the ramifications would be.

Democrats believe that jobs and the economy should be the top priorities and everything we do is measured against those goals. Republicans are failing the test.

REDUCING NON-SECURITY SPENDING TO FISCAL YEAR 2008 LEVELS OR LESS

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the irresponsible budget resolution under consideration by the House.

My priorities in the new Congress remain supporting middle class families and helping to foster job creation. These goals should be how we in Congress measure every action we take. Unfortunately the budget resolution before us today fails to meet these goals and is little more than a not-so-shrewd act of political theater staged hours before the President delivers the State of the Union in this chamber.

The resolution, which authorizes the Budget Committee chairman to cut non-security federal spending to 2008 levels, is an insincere attempt at fiscal responsibility. Getting our nation's fiscal house in order is a task I and many of my colleagues take seriously. However, rather than setting a concrete plan for how Congress should spend taxpayer dollars, this resolution contains no hard numbers. Moreover, this resolution would take the unprecedented and undemocratic step of empowering one Member of Congress with the ability to identify which programs to cut and by how much.

One example of how this resolution will hurt middle-class Americans is by cutting the Pell Grant program. Pell Grants help working-class Americans afford a college education. Since 2008, Congress increased wisely the Pell Grant to \$5,550. Should this ill-conceived resolution pass, Pell Grants could be cut by nearly 25 percent.

For America's economy to remain competitive in the coming years, Congress must make wise investments of taxpayer dollars. Pell Grants are just one of many of these wise investments. Allowing one Member of Congress to cut capriciously from federal programs while claiming to be fiscally responsible is anything but.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this budget resolution.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 1

10 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the U.S. economic outlook.

SD-608

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2011.

SD-366

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Iraq, focusing on transitioning to a civilian mission.

SD-419

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine foreclosure mediation programs, focusing on if bankruptcy courts can limit homeowner and investor losses.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Contracting Oversight Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine improving Federal contract auditing.

SD-342

FEBRUARY 2

10 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine tax reform, focusing on fiscal responsibility.

SD-608

Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine public health and drinking water issues.

SD-406

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine catastrophic preparedness, focusing on FEMA.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SD-226

FEBRUARY 3

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the energy and oil market outlook for the 112th Congress.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 16

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the U.S. Department of Energy's budget for fiscal year 2012.

SD-366